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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

In a week's time, how often do you visit any CNMI government-owned website?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

ASIA

Two brothers are reunited in Japan after nearly 60 years apart.

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FOCUS

The gift of sight has become an unwritten symbol of pride and culture for Sri Lanka.

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LIFE & STYLE

Sam Worthington remembers what it was like to gamble everything on one chance.

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'Improper' practices at CHC

»Babauta: Private doctors using hospital services for free

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Practices that could only be called "improper" have been discovered and are still ongoing at the cash-strapped public hospital, continuing to drag down the facility's fiscal condition, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta yesterday.

RELATED NEWS
'Hospital needs to move away from culture of govt subsidy'
PAGE 5

Speaking to members of the Saipan Rotary Club yesterday, Babauta disclosed that eight physicians from private clinics have been using the hospital's services and supplies free of charge for many years, with the costs being shouldered by the Commonwealth Health Center.

Babauta was alluding to private clinic doctors who are working at CHC as locums or short-term hires. The former Department of Public Health would hire these short-term service providers to avert a shortage of doctors at the hospital. He did not name these physicians but said that they were paid huge amounts for their services.

Documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* showed that one of these private doctors—a pediatrician—has been getting a base salary of $124,800 per year

See IMPROPER on Page 4

Food stamp families to critics: Walk in our shoes

AP

Chris Jenks, 54, who became homeless in his hometown of Minneapolis-St. Paul after a successful career in sales and marketing, is shown outside a friends' home beside the car he lived in for a time on Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012, in Rogers, Minn.

By JESSE WASHINGTON
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Some have advanced degrees and remember middle-class lives. Some work selling lingerie or building websites. They are white, black and Hispanic, young and old, homeowners and homeless. What they have in common:

See FOOD on Page 4

Popular initiative on Saipan casino now being planned

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

After the rejection by the Senate or the Executive Branch of at least two bills seeking to legalize casino gaming on Saipan and a third bill that remains dead in the water at the Senate, a group of individuals is now turning to popular initiative to have the question of casino gaming be placed in the Nov. 6 ballot.

Former Senate president Juan Demapan said yesterday that while it is too early to begin the actual signature drive, developing the idea and planning for it should now begin because of the considerable amount of time, effort, money, and other resources needed to ensure it's placed on the ballot.

"It's another option but it has to be planned carefully. We need sufficient public information about it, we need financial support for it because it takes a lot of resources," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), author of the House casino bill that the Senate shot down in 2010, said yesterday it's about time that a popular initia-

See POPULAR on Page 4

LEARNING BY TOUCH

The inspiring true story of Helen Keller and her dedicated teacher Anne Sullivan came to life in the Friends of the Arts production of *The Miracle Worker* over the weekend at the Marianas High School Dolphin Theatre. The scene above shows Laura Kyonka (Sullivan), center, Ann Calvert (Keller), left, and Christian Cruz (as James Keller). *See story on Page 7*

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Senate confirms Sixto Igisomar as Commerce secretary. PAGE 2

US House passes Kilili's Rota National Park bill. PAGE 7

Local

Senate confirms Sixto Igisomar as Commerce secretary

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Sixto Igisomar, second from left, is all smiles after the Senate confirmed his appointment as Commerce secretary yesterday afternoon, less than two hours after a public hearing on his nomination. Also in photo are special assistant for programs and legislative review Vicky Guerrero, left, and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

The Senate confirmed yesterday the governor's appointment of Sixto K. Igisomar as Department of Commerce secretary, less than two hours after a public hearing on his nomination and over a year since Igisomar first held the post in an acting capacity after Michael Ada stepped down.

Igisomar is both Commerce secretary and chairman of the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees, two posts he can serve at the same time based on a review of statutes and rules, said Fund board legal counsel Viola Alepuyo who also testified in support of Igisomar's confirmation.

Igisomar told senators he will be serving both posts to the best of his abilities.

All eight senators present voted to confirm Igisomar; Sen. Luis Crisostimo (Ind-Saipan) is still on medical leave.

About a dozen testified in support of Igisomar's confirmation during the Senate Committee on Executive Appointment and Governmental Investigations' public hearing that wrapped up past 12pm.

In less than two hours, the Senate adopted the EAGI Committee report recommending his confirmation.

"I feel awesome," Igisomar told *Saipan Tribune* shortly after his confirmation.

Igisomar was joined by his mother Consolacion and wife Catherine in the Senate gallery during the Senate confirmation.

"Hard working," "someone with deep knowledge and understanding of business and commerce," "professional," and "straightforward" were some of the words used to describe Igisomar at the public hearing.

Among those who presented and testified in support were special assistant for administration Esther Fleming, Dr. John Joyner, Commerce's Mark Rabauliman, press secretary Angel Demapan, Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta, retiree Lino Tenorio, House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), Ramon Quichocho, Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), and Fund board legal counsel Viola Alepuyo.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), Senate EAGI Committee chair, also announced receiving at least 10 letters in support of Igisomar's confirmation.

Igisomar told senators at the public hearing that he brings with him "an experience of life in the Mariana Islands; understanding the community and the culture; education from here and abroad; as well as my work and volunteer experience both in the private and public sectors."

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial submitted Igisomar's name to the Senate on Nov. 9, 2011.

Study identifies 3 strategies to preserve NMI's cultural collections

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Mutual sharing and understanding of knowledge and information, a holistic cultural heritage system, and advanced training and education in archival concepts and principles are needed to effectively preserve and maintain the Commonwealth's cultural heritage collections and resources.

These were the three major findings and recommendations identified in her final narrative report by Dr. Cecilia Lizama Salvatore, consultant for the CNMI Cultural Assets Restoration and Education Strategy or CNMI CARES project of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

Funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services Connecting to Collections or C2C Planning Grant, the CNMI CARES project aims to formulate a plan for the preservation and protection of the Commonwealth's cultural heritage.

The IMLS C2C Planning Grant was prompted by the Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America's Collections, the first comprehensive survey that captured the current conditions and preservation needs of cultural heritage collections across the nation and its territories.

Salvatore, an associate professor at the Dominican University School of Library & Information Science, was actively involved in the assessment, review, identification, and development of a plan for effective management, maintenance, and preservation of the CNMI's cultural heritage.

Salvatore worked with the CNMI C2C Planning Project Task Force, composed of stakeholder agencies and institutions and other community members from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, which was created specifically for the project and "provided valuable input and feedback on various activities and discussions."

Methods used included site visits to cultural heritage institutions, offices, and agencies, including physical inspection and survey of resources, collections, and facilities; survey/interview of staff at cultural heritage agencies, offices, and institutions; focus group sessions integrated with workshops; additional focus group sessions with the *man'amko* and the *manhoben* or youth; and visits to the governor and the mayors of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Salvatore said "mutual sharing and understanding" is needed so that agencies, offices, and institutions can "share knowledge of their mission, scope of collection, and specific holdings and to share knowledge of how they can complement and supplement each other."

According to Salvatore, the mission and scope of collection of each agency, office, and institution should be stated publicly for accessibility.

"This will greatly help the agencies, offices, and institutions themselves so that—and especially with a poor economy—unnecessary duplication of holdings and improper acquisitions are avoided," she said, adding that accessibility of mission and scope of collection will be beneficial to the community.

Salvatore explained that a "holistic cultural heritage system" refers to "a consensus about what constitutes cultural heritage collections and resources, and consequently, the need for a consensus as to how to prioritize these collections and resources," including who will be responsible for their "systematic and formal recordkeeping."

Salvatore emphasized that cultural heritage is an "evolving concept." "As the community changes, so does its culture," she said. She called on leaders and stakeholders to pay attention to the "significant immigrant population" in the CNMI, which has impacted its cultural heritage.

Meanwhile, Salvatore said there is also a need for advanced training and education in archival concepts and principles, practices and preservation strategies for effective and sustainable preservation of written and recorded materials about the indigenous culture.

While Salvatore pointed out the need for proper storage facilities for cultural heritage resources and collections, she recognized that funding is an issue to realize this necessity and so the three recommendations are highly endorsed.

"In fact, the accomplishment of these things may well facilitate the building of more ideal storage facilities," concluded Salvatore.

JKPL executive director John Oliver Gonzales, when asked for comment, told *Saipan Tribune* that Salvatore's report confirmed the "sad and perilous state of affairs" of CNMI's cultural heritage collections, describing it as "ill-equipped, resource challenged, local capacity and capability deficit, exposed to extreme and volatile natural and man-made security hazards and, therefore, unprioritized."

Gonzales urged the community to "meaningfully engage" in addressing the challenges that have plagued the CNMI for its cultural heritage to survive and its cultural-tourism industry to thrive.

"It starts with each of us and we must all believe that we—our people, our culture, our heritage—are a priority," said Gonzales.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

ISLAND ART EXHIBIT
Some of the artworks featured at the first Island Artist Exhibit are seen in this photo. Organized by the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, the Island Artist Exhibit opened to the public last Friday and will run until Feb. 29.

MCS joins celebration of Catholic Schools Week

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Mount Carmel School will be joining Catholic schools across the nation in observing Catholic Schools Week.

Catholic Schools Week is an annual national celebration of the important role that Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the country play in providing values-added education for America's young people. It is a key part of the yearlong National Marketing Campaign for Catholic Schools.

Catholic schools are proud of their educational network that emphasizes intellectual, spiritual, moral, physical, and social values in their students.

A proclamation signing tomorrow will mark the beginning of the Catholic Schools Week celebration from Jan. 29 to Feb. 5.

This year's theme is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Academics. Service."

"The theme focuses on three priorities that Catholic schools establish that make them stand out from other educational institutions. Children are taught faith—not just the basics of Christianity, but how to have a relationship with God. Academics, which in Catholic schools are held to very high standards, help each child reach his or her potential. Service, the giving of one's time and effort to help others, is taught both as an expression of faith and good citizenship," the National Catholic Educational Association explained in its website.

Contract out soon for next phase of back road project

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Works intends to award by the end of the month the contract for the Phase 2B component of the Cross Island Road Improvement Project.

Phase 2B covers the Kagman intersection up to Capital Hill. It will be funded by a U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration grant and ARRA monies.

Highway administrator Sonya Pangelinan Dancoe disclosed that four contractors submitted proposals for the project.

Deadline for the submission of proposal was last Jan. 3.

Dancoe said all proposals are now being reviewed and evaluated before any final selection is made.

"We plan to award the contract by the end of the month," she told *Saipan Tribune*. "It all depends on the time to route the contract to all signatories."

Meanwhile, the project's Phase 2A component, which starts from the Super Blue tank of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to the Kagman intersection, is about 75 percent complete.

Phase 1, which begins near the San Vicente-Dandan intersection and ends at the CUC Super blue Tank in Papago, is now on its pre-final stage, said Dancoe. This means DPW will assess if the contractor was able to meet the requirements of the contract and also serves as an opportunity to address any minor improvements on the project.

"We're satisfied with the project. But we still have to thoroughly check and finalize everything before we officially close out the project," said DPW Secretary Martin C. Sablan. "We're happy to report that we're progressing smoothly with the Cross Island Road Improvement Project."

Rayphand shows receipt he paid docketing fees

Contrary to a U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit's findings, Commonwealth Retirement Association board member Sapuro Rayphand has already paid the docketing and filing fees for his appeal.

Rayphand emailed *Saipan Tribune* on Thursday a copy of his receipt indicating he paid $455 in docketing fee on Dec. 30, 2011.

As of yesterday at 2:30pm, a check by *Saipan Tribune* at the U.S. District Court for the NMI showed that the 9th Circuit has yet to clarify its order regarding the docketing fees issue.

A district court staff, however, confirmed that Rayphand had already made the payment, but that a problem occurred because of the way Rayphand filed it.

The 9th Circuit is expected to issue a new order to clarify the docketing fee issue.

The 9th Circuit recently issued an order, stating that it has found out upon a review of the docket that Rayphand has not paid the docketing and filing fees for his appeal.

The Ninth Circuit gave Rayphand 21 days to comply with its order or otherwise his appeal will be automatically dismissed by the clerk for failure to prosecute.

The Ninth Circuit ordered Rayphand to file a motion to proceed in *forma pauperis,* and pay $455 to the district court as the docketing and filing fees for this appeal.

Forma pauperis refers to a court's permission to an indigent to initiate a legal action without having to pay for court fees or costs due to the party's lack of financial resources.

On Sept. 8, 2011, Rayphand, through Bruce Jorgensen, notified the District Court that he wants the Fund's lawsuit against the CNMI government to be removed from the Superior Court and transferred to the federal court.

Rayphand stated that it has been more than two years now since Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo rendered a $230 million judgment in the case yet there has been little, if any, meaningful steps toward enforcement of the judgment.

In November, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood found improper Rayphand's removal of the Fund's lawsuit and remanded it to the Superior Court. She also ordered Rayphand to pay attorney's fees and costs to the Fund.

Tydingco-Gatewood noted that much of Rayphand's argument for intervention is nonsensical and unrelated to the issues at hand.

Rayphand appealed to the Ninth Circuit to reverse Tydingco-Gatewood's order. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Babauta steps down as NMC Foundation president

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The longtime president of the Northern Marianas College Foundation, Ben Babauta, has stepped down effective Dec. 31 last year.

He told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that his departure was due to personal reasons, citing the need to concentrate on his other work and to spend more time with his family.

Babauta's successor has yet to be named as of yesterday.

Besides being the foundation's top official, Babauta is also the assistant general manager of DFS Galleria and owner and operator of Instant Massive Bingo, which operates every weekend on island.

Babauta became the foundation's president in 2005. He credited his successful years of service at the foundation to the commitment and dedication of members and volunteers.

The NMC Board of Regents created the NMC Foundation in 1999 for the purpose of acquiring, managing, and disbursing funds from alternative sources to support the advancement of the institution's educational programs and services. The foundation is a nonprofit organization composed of community volunteers, primarily from the business sector.

According to Babauta, since he left last month the foundation has a little over $4 million, of which some portions are invested in the international market to generate earnings.

Babauta cited the significant growth in the foundation's educational tax credit donations, or ETC, among his accomplishments. ETCs are funds received from businesses as a form of assistance to the college.

Babauta also cited the construction of NMC's Building M and the donations they obtained to build the English laboratory among the foundation's major achievements.

As he leaves the post, Babauta has only one wish—for the foundation to keep growing so it could better assist the college with its many needs. He also hopes that it will maintain its scholarship programs for deserving students.

Manta Ray Band sets series of fundraising drives

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band is putting together a series of fundraising campaigns for their upcoming trip to the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

Music director and conductor Will DeWitt told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the band will have a fundraising luncheon on Feb. 18. The $5 meal will consist of ribs, red rice, Korean-style sukiyaki, sausage, mango coco, and a drink.

"We plan to serve both our pre-paid customers as well as those who would like to drive up to the Oleai Beach Pavilion next to the former Oleai Beach Bar and Grill. This will take place on the morning of Feb. 18 from 11am to 1pm," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Advance tickets may be purchased by contacting DeWitt at 237-2722.

The group is also collaborating with the Public School System to create a "mega raffle" where the grand prize is $5,000 cash. Other cash prizes include $2,000 and $1,000 each for three winners as well as smaller cash amounts.

The group also expects many prizes from local businesses and supporters of the Manta Ray Band.

Each raffle ticket costs $50 and the purchaser will be entitled to join the band at a May 4 dinner concert tentatively scheduled at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall. Raffle ticket holders do not need to be present at the May 4 drawing to win.

"Our goal is to sell 3,000 of these tickets, thus raising over $100,000 for the fundraising effort," said DeWitt. The band is due to pay $25,000 to Olympic organizers on Feb. 1.

"Feb. 1 marks the next progress payment we owe to the Olympics. The amount is $25,000 and we are earnestly seeking ETC [educational tax credit] and other cash donations to meet this deadline. Numerous businesses and public entities have expressed their interest in supporting us even as we await their donations. All contributions, large or small, are appreciated," he added.

Saipan Southern High School needs $300,000 to cover the maximum cost for the travel of its Manta Ray Band, which is schedule to play at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London in August. The students were among a few handpicked musicians from around the world that will make up the musical orchestra for the historic event. The school plans to send a 50-member contingency and 10 chaperons. Each member will also be asked to pay $1,500 for the two-week travel in summer.

The Manta Ray Band performed at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and had a remarkable performance two years ago at the Carnegie Hall in New York.

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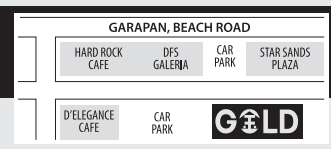

Northern Marianas Islands
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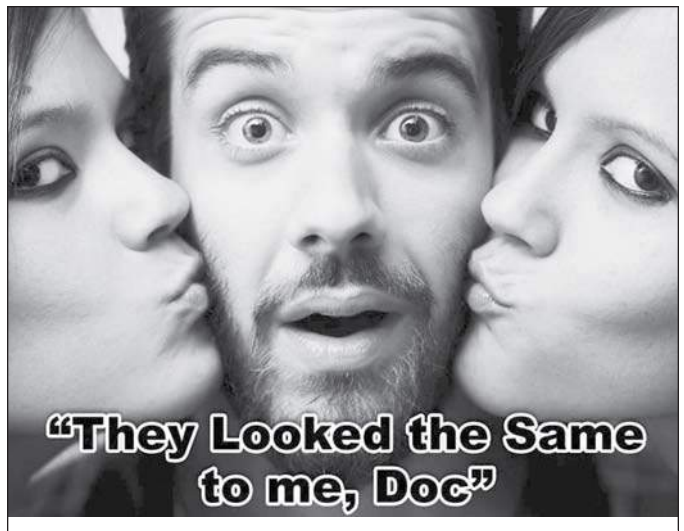
PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its ***Special*** meeting **Thursday, January 26, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at the NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.**

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 A. Call to Order
 B. Roll Call
 C. Adoption of Agenda
 D. Adoption of Minutes of Meetings
  1. January 06, 2012 (Regular)
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. OLD BUSINESS
IV. NEW BUSINESS
 A. Death Claims
 B. Alternate Administrative Hearing Officer
 C. NMIRF Cases
  1. No. 10-008 (JSB)
  2. No. 11-001 (FQA)
  3. No. 12-001 (LTD)
 D. Member Home Loan
 E. CGECU
 F. CV 12-004
 G. Post P.L. 17-67
  1. CDARS
  2. Investments
  3. Consultants
   a. Investment Consultant
   b. Money Managers
   c. Actuary
   d. External Financial Auditors
 H. Regular Interest Rate
 I. Regulations
 J. Board Consultant
 K. Travel
 L. Settlement Agreement for Life/Health Loan Investment
V. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VI. MISCELLANEOUS
 A. Other Related Matters
 B. Next Meeting
 C. Adjournment

/s/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Norman picked up the small tube of eye medicine, leaned back, and placed the ointment into his eye. Only one problem: it wasn't eye ointment. Norman had accidentally picked up the tube of super-glue. In an instant his left eye was sealed shut. For five days. Using a gentle touch and the newest medicines, Marianas Eye Institute's Dr. Mark Robertson ensured that Norman avoided permanent damage and fully regained his vision.

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‘Article 12 not based on race, but political status’

»Senate president, House speaker ask court to dismiss lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Legislative leaders asserted yesterday that Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution is based not on blood quantum nor race but political status and that the district court should dismiss the lawsuit filed by a U.S. citizen who wants to vote on any issues relating to Article 12.

In their motion to dismiss, Senate President Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) and House Speaker Eliceo D. Cabrera (R-Saipan) said that John H. Davis Jr. lacks standing to bring the lawsuit.

Article 12 limits landownership in the CNMI only to those of NMI descent. It is up for voters’ review this November election. Davis wants to stop the Commonwealth Election Commission from denying U.S. citizens who are not of Northern Marianas descent the right to vote on any issue regarding Article 12 or on any other issues.

Manglona and Cabrera, through Senate and House legal counsels Antonette R. Villagomez and Joseph L.G. Taijeron Jr., argued that as CNMI legislators, they are absolutely immune from civil claims for actions taken in their official capacities, regardless of whether those claims seek monetary damages or declaratory or injunctive relief.

Davis, a vice principal at Marianas High School, had named Manglona and Cabrera among the co-defendants in his lawsuit. The other co-defendants are CEC chair Frances M. Sablan, executive director Robert A. Guerrero, and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

In his lawsuit, Davis, through counsel Jeanne H. Rayphand, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to declare that Article 18 Section 5(c) of the CNMI Constitution violates the 14th and 15th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution and is invalid, null, and void. Davis wants the court to bar the defendants from denying him and other U.S. citizens who are not NMI descent the right to vote.

Rayphand alleges that the Legislature, in enacting P.L. 17-40, established a race-based registry “for the purpose of disenfranchising U.S. citizens who are not of Chamorro or Carolinian descent.”

In Manglona’s and Cabrera’s motion to dismiss, Villagomez and Taijeron said that in 1999, the issue of whether to allow persons of NMI descent to vote on Article 12 was fairly presented to the entire electorate, regardless of race.

Villagomez and Taijeron said that Davis and all other non-NMDs were given the opportunity to voice their opinion at the open polls.

“Now, after all votes have been counted and the issue has been constitutionally, fairly, and reasonably decided, he questions the constitutionality of Article 18 (5)(c)?” the counsels asked.

Assuming that Article 18 is constitutional, the lawyers said, P.L. 17-40 must also be upheld because it simply creates the NMI registry that would allow for the administration of this constitutional provision.

“Placed within the proper factual background and context, Villagomez and Taijeron said, it is clear that Davis’s race-based allegations “are without merit.”

The counsels said as a matter of law, and as established by each and every case that has upheld Article 12 in local and federal courts, the term “NMD” is a political and not a race-based classification.

The lawyers also argue that Davis lacks Article 3 standing and his amended lawsuit fails to plead facts that, if true, could demonstrate that he has suffered any concrete injury that is traceable to Manglona and likely to be redressed by a favorable judicial decision.

Article 3 of the Constitution limits the “judicial power” of the United States to the resolution of “cases” and “controversies.”

As for the immunity issue, the two said that several cases involving claims that the enactment of a law violated the U.S. Constitution, federal courts have held that legislators who timely raise the defense of legislative immunity must be dismissed from the case.

IMPROPER

From Page 1

for just a few hours of service at CHC each day.

Another locum, a psychiatrist, is being paid $160,000 a year, while another, a nephrologist, is paid $45,000 a year.

“They come to CHC [to treat their patients using hospital services and supplies] and they walk out from any charges. We end up paying for lights, housekeeping, supplies, and others. This practice has been going on [for many years],” Babauta said.

Oftentimes, nurses have also been used by these private physicians to administer treatment to their patients.

He cited this practice as among the “CHC services that were delivered” but have never been charged.

He said the corporation plans to sit down with each of these private providers to evaluate the services that are being billed and paid for by CHC.

“I am glad that they are taking care of the patients in the community, but we have to benefit also from it…because they not only use our facility but oftentimes they are being assisted by our own nurses and are using our own medical supplies. We need to charge them because nothing is free anymore at the hospital,” he said.

According to Babauta, a new arrangement will be enforced and a standard policy on hospital privileges will be set in place. “Probably, we will deal with them individually on the type of services they provide to patients.”

Flat rate vs standard

Babauta also disclosed that, for the last 30 years, CHC has been charging a very low flat rate—$400 per patient per day—for confinement at the hospital’s intensive care unit. This amount is inclusive of all services and supplies.

In contrast, if the actual rate is used, a patient will have to pay between $2,500 to $3,000 per night of stay at the hospital, he said.

“And we have discovered unnecessary longer stays in the hospital,” he said.

It is usually the doctor’s prerogative to decide whether he or she wants a patient to stay at CHC. “We need to work with our doctors on that,” he said.

Babauta admitted, however, that as much as the corporation wants to immediately implement changes to the existing rates, this can not be done without the full upgrade of what he calls the “charge master” that would detail each service codes and amounts. This system, he said, was last upgraded in 1982.

Due to the lack of a budget, he said the corporation is still scrambling to find the money to pay for an expert to do the upgrading. He is optimistic, though, that this will be done no later than this year or sooner.

POPULAR

From Page 1

tive be considered because the Senate appears to be sitting on the House casino bill authored by Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan).

Tenorio, a former governor and speaker, believes it would not be hard to gather enough signatures to put the question of Saipan casino on the ballot. The hard part, he said, would be to ensure that it gets enough votes on Nov. 6.

At least 20 percent of persons qualified to vote on Saipan need to sign the petition drive. It then has to be approved by two-thirds of Saipan voters who cast their votes.

The last Saipan casino popular initiative was rejected by Saipan voters in 2007.

Tenorio, at the same time, urged the House leadership not to act on bills and initiatives from the Senate until senators act on the House casino bill.

He said the Senate initiatives to help the Retirement Fund will lead to the demise of the Marianas Public Land Trust and the Department of Public Lands.

He said the Senate thinks that by passing these initiatives and bills to help the Fund, they don’t need to act on the casino bill, which he said will also help the Fund.

“I will campaign against these Senate initiatives and bills,” he added.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate panel reviewing the House casino bill, said yesterday that since the beginning, the Senate’s position has been to allow Saipan voters to decide whether or not to allow casino operations on Saipan.

Hofschneider said he welcomes the idea of a popular initiative.

As to the House casino bill assigned to his Senate Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies, he said the committee has yet to thoroughly discuss the measure.

Former House speaker Pedro Deleon Guerrero, president of the CNMI Indigenous Entrepreneurship Inc. that led the Saipan casino initiative in 2007, said yesterday that the major reason why the initiative was defeated in 2007 was the small window of opportunity to educate the public about the casino proposal.

Had the Office of the Attorney General certified the signatures immediately at the time, there would have been considerable time for an educational campaign on the initiative, he said.

Deleon Guerrero said his support for another casino initiative will depend on the way the initiative is written and its specific goals, among other things. Moreover, he said he supports only a casino industry that is “regulated” and is located in established hotels or in newly built hotel casinos.

Deleon Guerrero said he has hopes that the Senate will act on the House casino bill now before them.

He also said that the reasons why his group pushed for the casino initiative in 2007 will generally remain the same.

“We were pushing for the casino initiative then because we didn’t want a government shutdown. We didn’t want work hour cuts, delayed salaries and unemployment. All of those things happened,” he said, adding that had the casino initiative been approved in 2007, the CNMI would have had an industry that could have replaced the garment industry.

Tourism is now the only industry in the CNMI since the pullout of all garment factories that once manufactured global brands such as Levi’s, Ralph Lauren, Abercrombie & Fitch, Gap, and Guess.

FOOD

From Page 1

They’re all on food stamps.

As the food stamp program has become an issue in the Republican presidential primary, with candidates seeking to tie President Barack Obama to the program’s record numbers, The Associated Press interviewed recipients across the country and found many who wished that critics would spend some time in their shoes.

Most said they never expected to need food stamps, but the Great Recession, which wiped out millions of jobs, left them no choice. Some struggled with the idea of taking a handout; others saw it as their due, earned through years of working steady jobs. They yearn to get back to receiving a paycheck that will make food stamps unnecessary.

“I could never have comprehended being on food stamps,” said Christopher Jenks, who became homeless in his hometown of Minneapolis-St. Paul after a successful career in sales and marketing.

He refused to apply for several years, even panhandling on a freeway exit ramp before finally giving in. A few months ago, while living in his car, he began receiving $200 per month.

“It’s either that or I die,” said Jenks, who grew up in a white, middle-class family and lost his job in the recession. “I want a job. So do a lot of other Americans that have been caught up in this tragedy.”

In 2011, more than 45 million people—about one in seven Americans—received benefits from the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the most ever. Fewer than 31 million people collected the benefits about three years earlier.

Forty-nine percent of recipients are white, 26 percent are black and 20 percent are Hispanic, according to Census data.

Food assistance emerged as a campaign issue after statements by GOP candidates Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum about African-Americans, the poor and Obama, whom Gingrich labeled the “best food stamp president in American history.”

Critics accused Gingrich of seeking votes by invoking racial stereotypes about black welfare recipients with comments like “the African-American community should demand paychecks and not be satisfied with food stamps.” Challenged at a GOP debate this week on whether the rhetoric was insulting, Gingrich insisted it was not and received a standing ovation from the South Carolina audience.

Linda Miles is grateful to have food stamps, although she’s not happy about why she needs them. An Army veteran with a master’s degree, Miles, who is black, was laid off as a substitute teacher in Philadelphia amid deep budget cuts. After facing an empty refrigerator for too long, she recently started receiving $200 per month in food aid.

“Food stamps are essential, especially with the economy in the shape it’s in,” she said. “I pay taxes. I don’t steal anything from the government. I paid my dues to society; I’m a veteran. You took something from me by taking away my job. I wouldn’t need food stamps if you hadn’t taken my job.”

Miles started an unpaid internship this week, and also was certified to work in early childhood care while she looks for a permanent job.

“I’m not one of these people who sit on their butt and just collect a check,” Miles said. “I’ve got a resume three pages long.”

Ronnie McHugh was watching the GOP debate from home in Spring City, Pa. When Gingrich received the standing ovation, McHugh got so angry that she turned off the TV.

“I’d give a million dollars if I could find a job. I’m 64 years old, and no one wants to hire me,” said McHugh, who is white, divorced, has no savings and lives off $810 per month in Social Security.

“I would like them to sit in my shoes,” she said of the debate audience. “I would tell them I had a husband who made $150,000 a year, I had a good salary. We were both laid off at the same time by the same company, and I’ve never been able to rally from that.”

“If they had a chance to sit in my shoes, they would be happy to have a program to help people who did work all their life.”

Some critics say the Obama administration’s policies have pushed people into dependency on food stamps. Eligibility rules were broadened in 2002 and 2008 before Obama took office; his 2009 stimulus package relaxed some work requirements and temporarily increased payouts.

For others, the recession, which pushed the unemployment rate as high as 10 percent and increased poverty, is the primary culprit.

The Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger has seen a doubling of enrollments in suburban counties, with a smaller increase in the city itself. “These are much higher-income areas,” said Julie Zaebst, the coalition’s policy center manager. “This is part of the evidence showing that the most important reason for the growth in the program was the recession.”

'Hospital needs to move away from culture of govt subsidy'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta, right, addresses the Rotary Club of Saipan membership meeting at the Hyatt Regency's Giovanni's Restaurant yesterday. Looking on is Rotary president Pete Igitol.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta stressed yesterday that the Commonwealth Health Center needs to make "very fundamental" changes, including letting go of the "culture of being subsidized."

Speaking at the Rotary Club of Saipan membership meeting yesterday, Babauta pointed out that there is an "ingrained culture" of being at work but without productivity among staffers at the island's lone hospital.

"Well, that's the culture that has been ingrained in the last 30 years and that culture needs to change," Babauta told Rotarians and guests at the meeting held at the Giovanni's Restaurant of Hyatt Regency.

Babauta warned that if this culture is perpetuated, "we're going to fail."

"Under this new management, we must get rid of the status quo in order for us to be on the path of success," added Babauta.

He disclosed that he has never been busier compared to his previous jobs, including that of being a governor, since assuming the CEO post of the newly established healthcare corporation in October.

"It's dynamic, it's ever-changing, there's a lot of issues involved every day...I have to deal with them directly, I have to make things happen and, hopefully, we can improve the delivery of health services here in the CNMI," he said.

Babauta noted the diversity of the corporation, with the various programs it is engaged in. One of its major components is the CHC, which he described as 24/7 operation that is "top-heavy," meaning it spends more on salary expenses.

The hospital's budget, said Babauta, has seen a "dramatic reduction" in its annual budget, previously receiving around $43 million five or six years ago to just $5 million this fiscal year.

A big bulk of its budget—between 80 to 85 percent—is allotted to fixed costs, which include personnel salaries and fringe benefits. The remaining 15 percent, said Babauta, goes to variable cost, which covers hospital supplies and other operational needs.

Babauta disclosed that they collect between $400,000 to $500,000 a month, which is smaller than the biweekly payroll of $800,000.

"You can see immediately that there is an imbalance," he said.

Babauta vowed to implement changes and cost-cutting measures at the hospital such as promoting accountability in supplies and equipment. For example, he said, many discharged patients sometimes keep wheelchairs and other materials that should remain at the hospital after the patients check out.

He noted that doctors, who have the discretion to tell patients how long they can stay at the hospital, should also apply "due diligence" to avoid unnecessary longer stays.

"We have to be mindful of the expense and revenue side of things because we're no longer connected to the umbilical cord of the government," said Babauta, adding that all physicians, nurses, and the rest of the staff should be engaged in these "cost-containment" efforts.

Babauta also underscored the need to improve the hospital's collections and billing, which he said could "make or break" it. He said about 50 percent of services delivered to patients are not being charged.

"There is a high percentage of services in the hospital that have not been charged ever since we built the hospital," said Babauta.

He said the lack of data and statistics poses a "great challenge."

"The public health data and statistics are very weak, indicators are weak," he said, adding that availability of these figures can help the corporation increase its productivity level.

DUE TO CUC'S SHORTAGE OF CASH

Malae: Expect more water outages, power failures

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Due to a shortage of cash, the public should expect more water outages, sewer service disruptions, and worse—power generation failures, according to Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Abe Utu Malae yesterday.

Malae said that CUC is having trouble buying replacement parts and pumps/motors because it is short of cash.

He discussed CUC's financial problem with *Saipan Tribune* after being asked on Monday for comments on a Koblerville resident's complaint about the lack of water supply to their residence since last week.

Malae

Eric Agulto Borja said that he, his family, and his neighbors have been suffering due to the lack of a water supply since Thursday or Friday.

Borja urged CUC to correct the problem and stop "making the people suffer."

In an email to *Saipan Tribune* early yesterday morning, Malae said the reason for the shortage of water in Borja's area is that two well pumps were down at Koblerville.

Malae said the wells are, however, back on line as of Monday afternoon.

"We are short of cash because certain large customers are not paying their bills on time," the executive director said.

CUC, Malae said, can't even buy pre-paid meters and materials to prepare for the typhoon season.

Commonwealth Cancer Association
AWARENESS•EDUCATION•HOPE

COMMONWEALTH CANCER ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

All friends, volunteers, partners, and clients of the Commonwealth Cancer Association (CCA), and all members of the community, are invited to the general membership meeting on Tuesday, January 31st, 2012 at 6:00pm at CCA's Conference Room.

The agenda will include annual reports of the President and Treasurer; election of three CCA Board members; and opportunity for public comments. Nominations for board members will be accepted in advance and on the floor.

To submit a board nomination, or for more information, contact CCA at 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
A&E DESIGN OF THE ROTA SANITARY LANDFILL- PHASE I
RFP12-GOV-036

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified consultants to provide A&E Design of the Rota Sanitary Landfill- Phase I, located at Tatagchog on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The complete Scope of Work for the A&E design services required will be available on Thursday, January 12, 2012 at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (US $50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building on Capitol Hill. Questions regarding the Request for Proposal (RFP) must be submitted in writing to Mr. James R. Stump, CIP Contracting Officer, CIP Office, or faxed to (670) 664-2408, no later than 4 p.m., ChST Tuesday, January 26, 2012.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a project approach and a schedule of completion, addressing the scope of work requirements with details of how the work will be performed and accomplished by the consultants, with the names of the responsible persons identified and experiences of the responsible individuals of the team. The total proposal length shall not exceed fifty (50) pages in length. Note, a firm that submits a proposal as a prime consultant cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, the consultant may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Qualifications and background of the company(s) and proposed assigned personnel	- 25%
2.	Past experience of the consultant on design of similar projects	- 20%
3.	Project approach and schedule for completion	- 35%
4.	Demonstrated capability of ability to perform the work required	- 20%

Performance time for completion of the A&E Design of the Rota Sanitary Landfill- Phase I is One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days upon issuance of a Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed and shall be the greater of (i) Two Hundred Dollars (US$200.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by the number of calendar days of the contract time, the contract time and contract price being determined at the time of the assessment of liquidated damages for each and every day beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three ranked (3) firms. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "**RFP12- GOV-036, A&E Design of the Rota Sanitary Landfill- Phase I**". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, February 13, 2012. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, February 13, 2012 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, February 13, 2012, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than February 22, 2012. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor
/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director of Procurement & Supply

ADMIN ASKS FURTHER REVIEW OF HOUSE LEGAL OPINION

Senate holds off override of vetoed foreign corporation tax bill

»Basa to push for House override on Thursday

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senators held off yesterday from overriding the governor's veto of a bill that seeks to create a tax rate for foreign corporations earning income from outside of the CNMI, after the Fitial administration through assistant attorney general Jim Stump asked for more time to review a House legal opinion that says the bill's proposed taxes do not violate the terms of the Covenant.

But House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), author of the bill, said yesterday he will push for a House override of the governor's veto during Thursday's session, considering that a House legal opinion has already answered several questions on the bill.

Basa expressed disappointment that the administration, by sending Stump to the Senate session, did not consider "separation of powers" doctrine, adding that the administration had already spent considerable time to review the bill and could have made errors in its conclusion and it is now the Legislature's time to act on the bill.

He said he also wishes the Senate did not hold off its planned override of the governor's veto, now that the Jan. 29 deadline for the Legislature to override it is drawing near.

Stump cautioned senators yesterday on the impact of any proposed changes to the complex U.S. taxation system, and asked the Senate to give the administration more time to review the House legal opinion on the bill.

He said U.S. law and the Covenant have restrictions on the changes that can be made to tax codes.

Because of the complex nature of the U.S. tax system, Stump said that "further study" is needed on the bill and any legal analysis of it. "We don't want to invite the U.S. [Internal Revenue Service] to scrutinize our tax structure," Stump told senators during yesterday's session.

This comes a few days after the CNMI government filed Thursday a lawsuit against IRS and the U.S. Treasury to stop them from imposing Federal Insurance Contribution Act taxes on Filipinos and Koreans with Commonwealth-only worker status. FICA covers Social Security and Medicare taxes.

Stump, however, told senators that the Office of the Governor supports programs that spur economic activity. Lawmakers consider the foreign corporation tax bill as an important revenue-generating bill that will help grow the economy.

House legal counsel John Cool, who was in the Senate chamber, reiterated that the House legal opinion concurs with the Fitial administration on the basic premise that local amendments to the Northern Marianas territorial income tax (NMTIT) system is not permissible.

Cool and some senators said the bill "adds" proposed tax under Chapter 5, Miscellaneous Taxes and License Fees, not Chapter 7 (NMTIT).

Just the same, as a result of Stump's request on behalf of the administration, the Senate held off its override of the governor's veto of House Bill 17-163, Senate Draft 2, Conference Committee Substitute 1.

The Legislature has until the end of this month to override the governor's veto.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said even if the Legislature misses the deadline for overriding the veto, the more important thing is that the administration and the Legislature will be able to work together to move the bill's intent forward.

He said the bill's author, Basa, could reintroduce the bill, among other things.

After the motion to override the bill's veto was withdrawn, the Senate president instructed Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) to immediately meet with Basa on how to proceed with talks on the bill involving the administration. Taimanao and Basa will meet today.

"Irrespective of the bill's author, I will push for this kind of bill which will generate revenues for the CNMI to help its economy," Basa added.

Then acting governor Eloy S. Inos, in vetoing the bill on Dec. 1, said the proposed changes to the Northern Marianas territorial income tax structure violate Covenant restrictions to limit rebates to CNMI-sourced income and case law, which prohibits changes by insular areas that have adopted the U.S. tax code.

But a Jan. 17 memo from the House legal counsel states that while he concurs with the acting governor's conclusion that local amendments to Chapter 7 Tax (NMTIT) are not permissible, the acting governor "erroneously characterizes the tax on 'Net Foreign Income' as being under NMTIT Chapter 7.'"

The bill proposes a 10-percent tax imposed on "Net Foreign Income."

Following the sourcing rules of the NMTIT, the "Net Foreign Income" would not be included in gross income taxable under the NMTIT. None of the "Net Foreign Income" is derived from sources within the U.S. or the CNMI under the NMTIT income sourcing rules.

However, if it were determined that the "Net Foreign Income" was sourced in the CNMI and subject to the NMTIT, the amount of the tax would be subject to the rebate offset.

CUC seeks agreement with PSS over unpaid utility bills

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. wants the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission to support its planned memorandum of understanding with both the Public School System and the central government that seeks to settle PSS' unpaid utility obligations.

In its latest filing before the commission, CUC endorsed two MOUs—one between the utilities company and the school system and another one that include all parties in the agreement.

Both MOUs pertain to the unpaid utility obligation of the school system, a portion of which has been absorbed by the central government to offset the amount that was supposed to go to PSS in fiscal year 2001 but was never remitted.

As of November 2011, PSS owed CUC $3.7 million for power and water, according to CUC. It was agreed that the government will absorb $1.5 million of this obligation while the remaining amount will be shouldered by PSS.

According to CUC, the administration has committed to paying a minimum of $50,000 weekly with no interest. To date three payments have been received: $150,000 as of Dec. 20, 2011.

In case the CNMI misses any payment of the remainder of the $1.5 million, CUC said it will pursue all other remedies available to it under the law.

CUC, in the proposed MOU with PSS, indicated that the system is still liable for the remaining obligation, with minimum of $50,000 bi-weekly payments at no interest. CUC said it has already received two payments from PSS.

"CUC has sent 50 demand letters to PSS for its delinquent accounts; CUC shall delay filing lawsuits for those 50 demand letters as long as PSS is making its current monthly payment in full plus the minimum payment as agreed to in the MOU," CUC's proposed MOU stated.

As of Sept. 30 last year, the central government and PSS topped the list of delinquent CUC accounts. The central government's utility debt was at $2.4 million while PSS owed $3.6 million.

The $6 million collectibles from PSS and the central government translates to a month's supply of fuel for CUC.

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will conduct a special business meeting at 10:00 a.m. on January 27, 2012 at Retirement Fund Building Conference Room, Capitol Hill to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome. Reports and other documents relevant to the agenda will be available at the meeting for public inspection. Questions regarding the agenda should be referred to Mr. Robert Torres, Esq., who serves as counsel to the Commission's regulatory consultant, at 670-234-5750.

AGENDA

- **Administrative matters:**
  - Call to order – approval of agenda
  - Quorum and authority to act.
  - Approval of minutes of November 19, 2011 meeting as continued on November 29, 2011.
- **Public comments.**
- **CUC Electric Division [Docket 09-1].**
  - $10 million dollar Independence Bank loan.
  - Electric base rate increase.
  - Establishment of new municipal pumping customer class.
  - Public comment period for proposed net metering tariff.
  - Deadline extension for CUC compliance with renewable portfolio standards.
  - Establishment of new public street and private area lighting tariff.
  - Procurement matters:
  - Recurring goods and services procurement Protocol amendment.
  - Recurring inventory procurement Protocol amendment, with FY12 ceilings.
  - Review threshold Protocol amendment.
  - Security services contract.
  - Government receivables – proposed memoranda of understandings with CNMI Government and Public School System.
  - Plan to reduce back office unaccounted for energy and technical losses.
  - LEAC tariff amendment.
  - LEAC reconciliation – August 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011.
  - Establishment of new LEAC rate.
- **CUC Water and Wastewater Divisions [Docket 12-01].**
  - Wastewater base rate increase. Water base rate reduction.
  - Establishment of new water and wastewater energy charges.
  - Establishment of new service charge for verification of back flow devices.
  - Petition to establish a new agricultural water rate.
- **Other business.**

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-12-006

PIPELINE PROJECT MNAGEMENT, DESIGN SERVICES & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 8-INCH DIESEL FUEL PIPELINE
(Emergency Procurement)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Project management to include Design & Construction Management services for CUC's 8-Inch Diesel Fuel Pipeline Replacement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Contractor shall furnish labor for the Design and Project Management Services for the Commonwealth Utilities Commission (CUC) from award to completion of the 8" diesel pipeline project, tasks shall include but not be limited to weekly, monthly inspection reports, design completion, construction and quality assurance oversight, site visits and coordination with the CUC, construction contractor and regulatory agencies.

The project involves replacement of an existing 8 inch aboveground petroleum pipeline (approx. 1 mile long) with an 8 inch underground pipeline from the Saipan seaport at the Mobil Oil Bulk Plant to the CUC Power Plant 1 and 2. The underground pipe installation portion of the project includes archeological monitoring, excavation/trenching, shoring, placement of bedding, welding and testing of pipe segments, pressure relief valves, high and low point drains, valve pits, pipe jacket, bridge crossing, pipe pigging, cathodic protection, based on 49 CFR part 195 and other applicable codes.

This project is being performed under a stipulated order (SO) being overseen by the U.S. EPA and Federal Judge. The project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), Office of the Insular Affairs.

The Scope-of-Work will be **e-mailed** upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays.

The response to this RFP must be received with the title **"PIPELINE PROJECT MNAGEMENT, DESIGN SERVICES & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 8-INCH DIESEL FUEL PIPELINE"** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika.muna@cucgov.org no later than **January 27, 2012 at 10:00 AM**, (ChST) local time. Late submissions will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (CHST) local time on **January 25, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org; Technical Manager for Oil via email ed.char@cucgov.org; Managing Engineer, Power generation, via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika.muna@cucgov.org. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged by the Source Selection Committee (SSC). CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

US House passes Kilili's Rota National Park bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. House of Representatives passed on Monday Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's (Ind-MP) bill authorizing the Interior secretary to study archaeological, historical and natural resources on Rota for inclusion in the National Park System.

Sablan, in a statement, said his H.R. 1141's passage in the House is one step closer to having a National Park on Rota and one step closer to the jobs and economic development that such a park would bring.

H.R. 1141 now goes to the Senate, where it will be referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), who testified on Sablan's similar bill during the previous Congress, welcomed yesterday HR 1141's passage and hopes that the U.S. Senate will pass it this time around.

Sablan

Just like Sablan, Santos talked about the economic gains that the CNMI will get from having a national park established on Rota.

"I will write a letter to the U.S. Senate in support of the bill, hoping they would act on it favorably," Santos told *Saipan Tribune*.

A 2005 Department of the Interior field survey found that Monchon Latte Stone Village, the Chugai Pictograph Cave, and other ancient sites on Rota have national significance and should be protected. The "suitability and feasibility" study that the U.S. House approved on Monday will look more closely at competing land uses and help identify which areas should be made a National Park.

"Creating a National Park is not a quick or easy process. Only America's true national treasures can achieve that status," Sablan said.

Sablan said archaeologically important remains of the ancient Chamorro people and the rare and endangered species of plant and animal life in Rota's limestone forests are exactly the kind of crown jewels that the National Park system is designed to protect for all time.

Sablan thanked U.S. House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) and his Democratic counterpart Raúl Grijalva of Arizona, as well as House Natural Resources Committee chairman Doc Hastings (R-Washington) and Ranking Member Ed Markey (D-Massachusetts).

The CNMI delegate also noted the work of former CNMI senator and chair of the Rota Legislative Delegation Diego M. Songao who, in 2004, encouraged the National Park Service to conduct its initial reconnaissance of Rota's cultural and natural resources.

Sablan said that effort resulted in the finding of national significance and the recommendation for a follow-up suitability and feasibility study.

He also recalled Santos's testimony in 2010 in Washington, D.C. before the Natural Resources Committee in support of H.R. 4686, Sablan's earlier Rota Park study bill, which passed the House but was not acted on by the U.S. Senate.

In his statement yesterday, Sablan also thanked Rota Mayor Melchor A. Mendiola and CNMI Senate President Paul A. Manglona for their support.

Sablan said the Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act seems "well-timed" because only last week, President Barack Obama announced steps to increase foreign tourism to the United States by improving the visa system and by initiating new promotional efforts for America's National Parks and other attractions.

Sablan said he welcomed the president's commitment to expanding the number of countries that participate in the national visa waiver program, which makes it easier for visitors to enter the U.S.

"Being the closest part of America to the emerging economies of Asia, the Northern Marianas is eager to see new countries added to our visa waiver program. And we want to have the unique cultural and natural resources of our islands added to the national treasures the President intends to promote. We know that having areas on Rota designated as part of the National Park System will help create jobs in ecotourism, transportation, hotels and restaurants for the people of today," he said.

"We understand that protecting and preserving these nationally significant resources on Rota will also help ensure jobs for our children and grandchildren in the future."

FOA play brings to life Keller's inspiring story

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Laura Kyonka (Annie Sullivan), left, feeds Ann Calvert (Helen Keller), as Linda Wingenbach (Aunt Ev) looks on in one of the scenes in the Friends of the Arts production of The Miracle Worker at the Marianas High School Dolphin Theatre on Sunday.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The inspiring story of Helen Keller and her dedicated teacher Anne Sullivan came to life in the Friends of the Arts production of *The Miracle Worker* last Jan. 20 to 22 at the Marianas High School Dolphin Theatre.

The play by William Gibson was based on Keller's autobiography, *The Story of My Life*, and showed how Sullivan became instrumental in instilling discipline and teaching language to Keller, who was rendered blind, deaf, and mute by an illness at a young age.

The cast was composed of Anna Cavert as Helen Keller, Laura Kyonka as Annie Sullivan, Frank Gibson as Captain Arthur Keller, Nava Khorram as Katie Keller, Christian Cruz as James Keller, Linda Wingenbach as Aunt Ev, Wincel Bubos as Viney, Xuchong Liang as Percy, and Ageline Sahagun as Martha.

Off-stage voices were Ken Manalo as the doctor, Ericka Serrano as Jimmy, and Bruce Li, Armand Khorram, and Bubos as voices from Annie's past.

Costume designs for the cast were made by Thespian students Carlos Manalo of Saipan Southern High School for Annie Sullivan; Helen Choi of MHS for Helen Keller; Dennis De Guia of MHS for Capt. Keller; Yong Jeong Kim of SSHS for Kate Keller and Percy; Hannah Alcordo of MHS for James Keller; Jacqueline Maglonzo of MHS for Aunt Ev; and Se Yun Moon of SSHS for Viney.

The show was produced by Andrew Golden and directed by Harold Easton and Susan Fishman-Tudor.

Easton said it was a wonderful opportunity to work on the show, bringing his theater and television experience to the plate and taking into consideration the reactions of people with disabilities to increase awareness in the community about their issues.

He thanked his co-director, Fishman-Tudor, whose most notable work was with the characters of Annie and Helen. "I am also most appreciative of the intense individual work our Helen and Annie did on their own to bring their unique relationship to the stage."

Easton added, "We at the MHS Dolphin Theatre hope that as our theatre grows, so will the relationship between this performance space and the Friends of the Arts."

Ogumoro wants $150K Managaha fees for cultural events

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) seeks to appropriate $150,000 in Managaha landing fees to be used for activities during the 2012 Cultural and Heritage Month, but Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta said yesterday this proposal violates the Constitution and law that restrict the Legislature from directly appropriating income from public lands.

"If DPL allows this bill to pass, then DPL will have to answer to people of Northern Marianas descent I also have a fiduciary responsibility to protect money for NMDs," Babauta said.

Ogumoro's House Local Bill 17-71 seeks to appropriate $150,000 from the Managaha Island User Fee Trust Account for the 2012 "Indigenous of the Marianas Conference" and the Chief Aghurubw celebration during the Cultural and Heritage Month.

Of the total amount, $120,000 is proposed to be set aside for the conference, and the remaining $30,000, for the observance of Chief Aghurubw Recognition Week in September.

Under HLB 17-71, the expenditure authority for the funds is the resident executive for indigenous affairs.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
CNMI Judicial Branch

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judicial Branch is seeking qualified and reliable individuals for the position of:

RECORDS TECHNICIAN (Saipan) – Office of the Clerk of Court

REQUIREMENTS: Candidates must have a high school diploma or equivalent and three years work experience..

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates must possess typewriter and computer skills, a valid CNMI driver's license, current police and traffic clearances, and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

DUTIES: The employee in this position will work under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his /her designee and will perform the following: sort and arrange documents and files in appropriate file folders; handle reproduction of court documents and related forms; verify and issue criminal record clearances; verify and issue traffic record clearances; ensure file readiness for use in court hearings; perform typing assignments as required, input data from court files into computer database; verify date entry output with court file hard copy; assist deputy clerks with courtroom readiness for jury panels; assist with general reception including, but not limited to, helping customers at all Clerk of Court service windows, answering phone calls, and referring customer requests to appropriate court personnel; accept fines and fees as ordered by the Court; assist in the collection of the payments at the customer service window; prepare and summarize daily collection report on financial services provided; prepare daily tickets and balance daily collection; reconcile reports with daily logs; run errands for the office, including but not limited to, picking up and delivering mail within and outside the courts; and perform other related duties as assigned.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. This is one year contract at an annual salary of $15,000.

Application forms may be obtained at the OPM offices or at the Supreme Court office at the Guma Hustisia/limwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, Completed applications, resumes, proof of high school graduation, along with copies of police clearance and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI may be submitted at the Supreme Court office at the House of Justice in Susupe or addressed to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP, 96950. Resumes and applications must be submitted by 5:00p.m. on January 31st, 2012. For additional information about the position call (670) 236-9716. This job announcement can also be seen at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

Air Force guest speaker inspires Aero-Dolphins

The Aeronautical Dolphins, aka the "Aero-Dolphins," had another inspiring guest speaker, Senior Airman Richard Kautz of the U.S. Air Force Wednesday last week.

Kautz, a member of Mount Carmel High School's Class of 2008, was only 18 years old when he enlisted as a mechanic with no military experience whatsoever. He immediately left for Lackland Air Force Base in Texas to attend Basic Military Training right after high school graduation.

He is a KC-135 Crew Chief for four years now and has traveled all over the world, from Kansas, Oklahoma, and Florida, to Spain and all over Europe. He has been contracted to serve for six years and although he is almost done with his contract, he says that he loves being a crew chief so much that he will continue doing it for the rest of his military career.

Aero-Dolphins instructor and founder John Raulerson was in fact a KC-135 Crew Chief before he retired and worked in civilian jobs. He and Kautz shared the same experiences and obstacles that they had to go through to accomplish their goals.

Both of them emphasized with the Aero-Dolphins the importance of education and the variety of rare opportunities given to students at Marianas High School. Kautz stressed how the U.S. Air Force gives many opportunities that are only given once in a blue moon so one must grab the opportunity or else "rue the day you made such a stupid decision for the rest of your life." He made the Aero-Dolphins understand how much one decision could affect the rest of one's life. ***(Eufemio Feria)***

The Aero-Dolphins pose with Senior Airman Richard Kautz, standing second from right. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PREL accepting applications for Pacific Teacher Scholarship

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Pacific Resources for Education and Learning is now accepting online applications for the Pacific Teacher Scholarship Program for Academic Year 2012–2013. The application deadline is April 1, 2012.

PREL awards about five scholarships each year to residents of the U.S.-affiliated Pacific to honor their commitment to teaching excellence. The amounts vary from $500 to $1,000.

To be eligible, you must:

■ Be a resident of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Republic of Palau, or the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

■ Be a 2nd-, 3rd-, or 4th-year student at an accredited college or university.

■ Be enrolled in an accredited teacher preparation program.

■ Be a student in good standing. (A grade point average [GPA] of at least 2.5 qualifies you as a student in good standing.)

■ Intend to teach in a school in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific.

For more information about applying or donating to the Pacific Teacher Scholarship, visit www.prel.org/scholarship.aspx. ***(PREL)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Friend" is just a word but you give it meaning—happy birthday to Row Maech, shown here seated left with friends, who is celebrating her special day today. We love you! Greetings come from Jade and Aldene Jayh.

Adult Basic Education spring 2012 calendar

The Northern Marianas College's Adult Basic Education program has announced the following academic dates for the spring 2012 semester:

■ Registration for Returning ABE Students: Feb. 6-7, 10am-4pm, ABE Office

■ Registration for New ABE Students: Feb. 8-9, 10am-4pm, ABE Office

■ ABE Late Registration: Feb. 10 & 13, 9am-4pm, ABE Office

■ Student Orientation for ABE Students: Feb. 14, 6pm-7-pm, NMC Student Center

■ Add/Drop for ABE Students:

Feb. 15-17, 9am-4pm, ABE Office

Feb. 20-22, 9am-4pm, ABE Office

■ First Day of Instruction:

MWF Classes: Feb. 15, 2012

TTh Classes: Feb. 16, 2012

Sat. Classes: Feb. 18, 2012

Sun. Classes: Feb. 18, 2012

This schedule is subject to change. For more information, log on to www.nmcnet.edu or contact the ABE Office at 234-5498 Ext. 1721, 1723, or 1724. ***(NMC)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Cancer walk today

The Cervical Cancer Awareness Health Walk will be held today, Jan. 25, at 4pm, from the American Memorial Park parking lot to the 13 Fishermen's Pavilion. The first 75 registered participants will receive an incentive. ***(PR)***

MHS calendar of activities

The Marianas High School PTA is encouraging all Dolphin parents and guardians to attend its second quarterly meeting on Thursday, Feb. 2, at the school's new Dolphin Theater located in the T building, from 4pm to 6pm. Students will be released at 1pm on that day. The second quarter report cards will be distributed to parents after attending the PTA meeting. Important discussion will be on election of officers for 2012-2013, possible requirement of parent report card, update of ongoing projects, and presentation on PSS Core Standards Curriculum.

■ Jan. 23-27: Final week

■ Jan. 27: Last day of 2nd Quarter

■ Jan. 30: Beginning of 3rd Quarter

■ Feb. 2: Report card day, 4pm-6pm. Student dismissed at 1pm.

Half-days, PTSA meeting at Kagman High

Kagman High School students are scheduled for half days today, Jan. 25, and tomorrow, Jan. 26, 2012. Dismissal time will be at 1pm. The purpose is to help students focus on the final exams assigned those days. This will also allow time for teachers to get grading and grade inputting done.

There will be a PTSA meeting tomorrow, Jan. 26, at 5:30pm in the school's cafeteria. For more information, call the KHS main office at 237-3840 or e-mail: kagmanhs@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Deadline extended for Tinian scholarships

The Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board is informing applicants--new, continuing, and returning--that the submission deadline has been extended until Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2012. Continuing applicants submission requirements are an original transcript, class schedule, and memorandum of agreement. All new applicants that have yet to submit their requirement deficiencies are requested to comply on or before Jan. 31, 2012. For more information, contact the Tinian Municipal Scholarship office at (670)433-1800, 433-1802, or email tinianscholarship@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

First aid training today

The American Red Cross-Northern Mariana Islands Chapter will be conucting a First Aid Training today, Jan. 25, from 6pm to 9pm. Contact the American Red Cross-Northern Mariana Islands Chapter at 234-3459 to register. To learn more, visit www.redcross.org/training. ***(ARC)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 25, 2000

Loans eyed to augment government scholarship

The administration has completed drafting a proposal that will set in place a new scheme to extend adequate financial assistance to local college students without putting much pressure on the depleting public coffers. The proposal is now up for review by officials of the Public School System and the Northern Marianas College, as well as members of the 12th CNMI Legislature. Forced by diminishing resources, the government has been exploring alternative ways to continue providing local college students with financial assistance while assuring that funding for other essential programs remain in place. The draft legislation is aimed at providing local college students with an education financing program that would allow them to secure guaranteed bank loans to fund school and other education-related expenses.

US census validates growth in NMI economy

The United States Department of Commerce has reported positive developments on the Commonwealth's economy, primarily fueled by growth in the garment manufacturing industry. The Northern Mariana Islands witnessed a significant growth in the manufacturing industry in a span of five years, or between 1992 and 1997, according to the most recent economic census released by the U.S. commerce department. The number of paid manufacturing employees doubled from 6,300 to 13,700 during the period under review, disclosed the report contained in the 1997 Economic Census of Outlying Areas-CNMI.

Jan. 25, 2001

Medicaid reforms top priority for US territorial governors

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (PIDP/CPIS)—The National Governor's Association has identified Medicaid reforms as a top Bush administration priority, according to American Samoa Governor Tauese Sunia. The reforms, if successful, would bring equal treatment to all U.S. territories, the Governor said. Under the auspices of the Territorial Governors Health Care Coalition, Tauese joined forces with the governors of Guam, Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to push this issue last August with former President Clinton.

Private firms' help eyed to identify needed labor

The Public School System will tap the assistance of various private and public agencies on the island to identify the needed labor force in hopes to sustain the growing demands of the Commonwealth. Aside from possible collaborative effort with these businesses, the school system is also looking into the effective implementation of on-the-job training program to help students gain first-hand work experiences. Acting Associate Commissioner on Secondary Education Rita A. Sablan discussed these probabilities following the recently conducted Vocational Education Training.

Jan. 25, 2002

NMI government overloaded

It has been said the CNMI government is the biggest employer in the Commonwealth. With an ungainly 4,773 employees in all, the point could not be argued. Like an ungainly ship that is sporting too many sails, the ship of state of the Commonwealth has become a top-heavy vessel that is threatening to go under as it faces the strongest typhoon yet since its birth in the early 70's. This has prompted many critics, particularly in the private sector, to trumpet the call to start culling the herd, so to speak. By getting rid of unnecessary weight, the CNMI's battered economic engine could still make it through the economic firestorm brought on by the Asian currency crisis and the 911 catastrophe.

CPA to ask for re-certification of Rota runway

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will ask the Federal Aviation Administration to amend the certification for the Rota International Airport to affirm the facility's capability to accommodate larger aircraft operated by Continental Airlines. CPA Board Chair Roman S. Palacios mentioned the need to ask the FAA to re-certify the Rota airport since it can previously accommodate only smaller aircraft operated by the Pacific Island Aviation and Boeing 727-200. Palacios echoes CPA Board Member Roman Tudela's concerns that the aviation industry should be properly informed that improvements on the Rota airport runway make it capable of accommodating aircraft that are models currently used by Continental Airlines.

Island Snapshots

NEW CABINET MEMBER

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and other senators pose with newly confirmed Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar and his family during a Senate session break yesterday afternoon. The Senate confirmed Igisomar a few hours after the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations held a public hearing on his nomination.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Newly confirmed Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar, fifth from left, is flanked by his wife, mother, Department of Commerce staff and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) during a Senate session break yesterday.

LUNAR NEW YEAR

From left, Chinese Association of Saipan's Rose Chan, Ta Bun Kuy, Carol Chan, and Anna Chan pose by the entrance to the Canton Restaurant after the lion dance performance in observance of Chinese New Year on Monday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

A Canton Restaurant diner places a hong bao or red money envelope inside the mouth of the lion dancer last Jan. 23.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Right, Anna Chan of the Chinese Association of Saipan places a red money envelope or hong bao inside the mouth of one of the two lions outside the Canton Restaurant on Jan. 23.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Marianas Eye Institute staffer Emily Taitano talks to an Aging Center client during their community outreach event on Monday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Democracy triumphs in Taiwan

The presidential election in Taiwan earlier this month handed a second term to incumbent Ma Ying-jeou, and the result allowed Beijing to breathe easier. Ma had pressed for less tension with mainland China, in contrast to his opponent, Tsai Ing-wen, who declined to renounce independence.

But for the long term, the Beijing leadership may have cause for worry. While news of the campaign and election was covered only grudgingly via official media, it flowed freely online. Many Chinese watched a presidential debate on the Web and some traveled to Taiwan to see the campaign for themselves.

What they saw was the first multi-party democracy to appear in 5,000 years of Chinese history. The campaign ran its course without violence. The loser made a gracious concession speech. As a Chinese businessman wrote in a blog post reported by The New York Times, "On the far side of the sea, Taiwan erected a mirror. And on this side of the sea, we saw ourselves in the future."

The Beijing leadership won't be able to put this genie back in the bottle. The Chinese have seen their compatriots competently managing the machinery of democracy and they yearn for the same thing on the mainland.

Many thought that after the Tienanmen Square massacre in 1989—when the Chinese army forcibly put down a mass pro-democracy protest—it was only a matter of time before China's authoritarian regime would fall.

But China's rulers have kept a lid on discontent by giving only lip service to Marxism and delivering rapid economic growth. It's telling that in recent months as growth has faltered, the number of strikes and protests is on the rise.

One result of China's growth over the last generation is a steadily growing middle class. As in Taiwan, the Philippines and South Korea, a rising middle class has a habit of eventually insisting on the right to self-government.

In corners of American foreign policy, some murmur that perhaps it's time to cut Taiwan loose, lest it destabilize U.S. relations with China. Yet under the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, Washington is required to aid Taiwan's defense.

That policy should be maintained. To do otherwise would tempt Beijing into bullying Taiwan. And it would raise worrisome questions about America's staying power among other allies and thus weaken U.S. influence in the all-important Pacific region.

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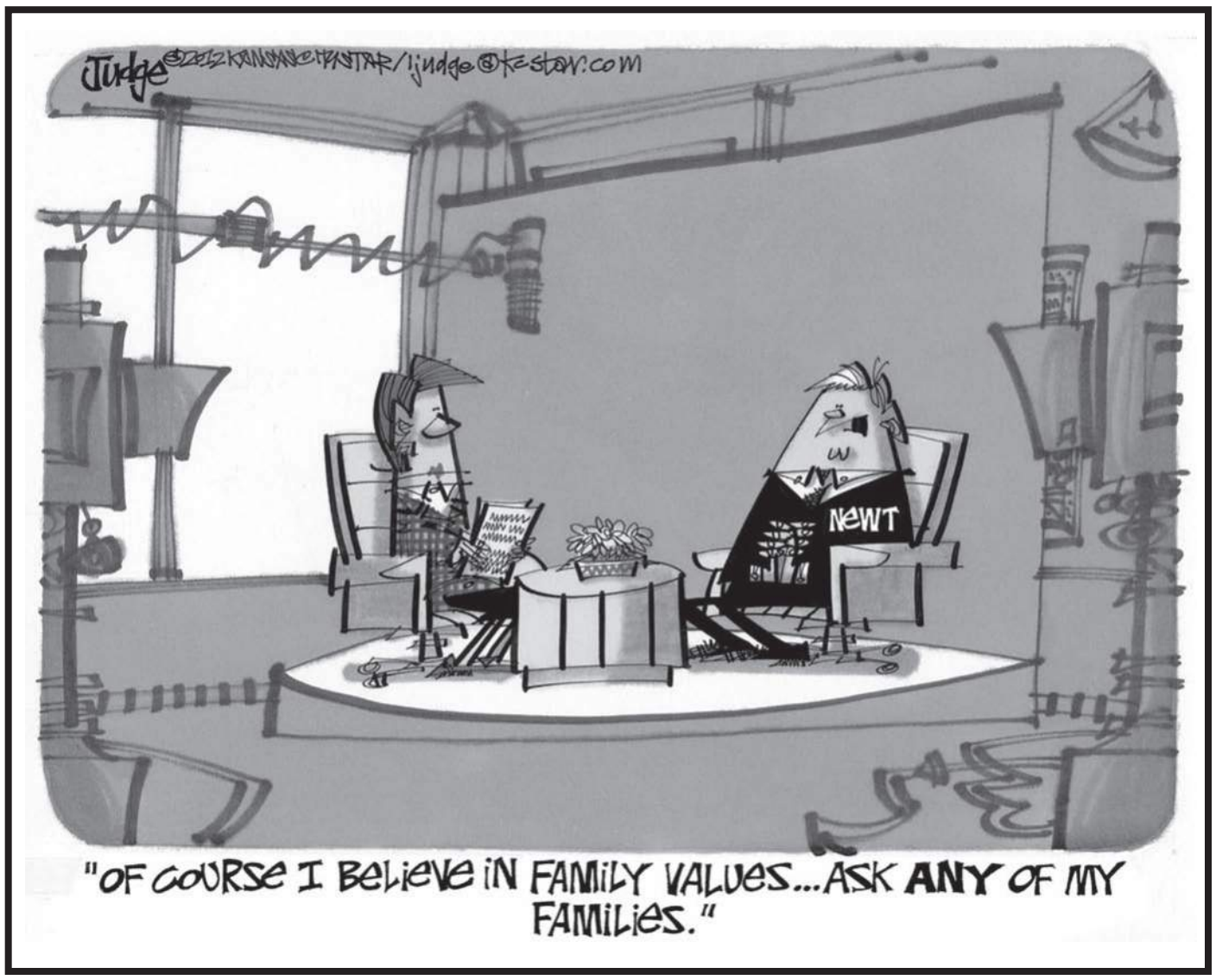


Hawaiian monk seal

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

NAS Barber's Point in Hawaii based naval personnel before it was decommissioned in 1998; services joined the Kaneohe Marine Base on the windward side of Oahu.

Still known as Barber's Point after the Captain Barber of a capsized ship headed for the Orient in 1796, the NAS airport has since acquired its Hawaiian name *Kalaeloa*, used as an alternate to the Honolulu International Airport.

My Canadian daughter celebrated her birthday this weekend at the White Plains Beach on Barber's Point, a surfing location for beginners, and a previously limited access beach available only to military personnel.

We were impressed with the state of the park and the rainbow ethnic groups using it, the tidiness of the facilities and the care the users exerted to keep the place clean, but it was the big fat Hawaiian monk seal lying on the shore that held our attention even as our young ones tested their swimming and surfing skills on the water.

Known to native Hawaiians as *'Ilio-holo-i-ka-uaua,* "dog that runs on rough water," it is an endangered specie, an earless seal endemic to the Hawaiian Islands. They are solitary animals, thus its endearment to this secular monastic.

The female of the specie is bigger and heavier than their male counterparts and this one in the park, properly cordoned in her space from gawking and picture-taking beachcombers, looked like she might be pregnant as well. Members of the specie are known to molt their hair and look like halo-head monks, the reason the German archaeologist who named them gave their current moniker.

A monkish looking Jerry Tan of our island, perhaps an endangered specie among the gloom-and-doom cynicism of current economic prognosticators, Mr. Tan of this paper's parent company had the temerity to promote a Saipan Air launching in July this year to serve clientele from Narita, Nagoya, and Osaka.

We have on various occasions promoted our islands to friends and colleagues from Japan, Korea, and China (Shanghai, Beijing and D*ong Bei*) but our contacts have been wary over the seeming high cost of the trip through international carriers. I am sure Mr. Tan has done his homework with the numbers, and with knowledge of the affordable charter flights from Guangzhou, Shanghai, and Beijing (we were by chance onboard Beijing's inaugural flight), he is either playing pied piper to the Japan market, and the Korea connection, or he knows something that we don't.

Recent incidences of local mistreatment of visitors haunt our promotions but Mr. Tan's previous stewardship of the MVA might have given him some insight into how we can turn the pristine beauty of our natural resources to our economic advantage. Mr. Tan has a three-year timeline for the Nippon market. Maybe he might incline his tested business acumen to the Hanggul and Zhongguo markets as well.

The airline announcement, like Tony Pellegrino's air cargo, is simply a first step, a necessary one but hardly the decisive one. What is critical is what we do to be more welcoming to visiting travelers, to take pride in who we are and what we create with our lives, how we keep our environment to be conducive to good health and pleasant ambiance, attractive to a world grown weary from the blight of industrial pollution, urban congestion, and contemporary insanities. Fructifying the land and waters through productive means native to our population for our own basic support goes without saying.

We do not have monk seals to protect from harm but we shield the diminishing school of sharks in our waters. We initiated the Marianas Marine Monument, though we have yet to appropriate the enormous educational and economic potential of a protected national marine park in our neighborhood.

Not unlike the illusions of our time, we long for instant messianic salvation from casinos to fill our government coffers even when we know that Nevada, Atlantic City, Singapore, and Macau hardly have anything to commend to the hosting of the gaming culture into our neighborhoods. We already know the incalculable social effects of poker machines on our islands. Life in the fast lane and of easy money has mesmerized the core of the Marianas soul.

We also like to play the blame game.

Still, the power innate in the Chamorro and Carolinian, the creativity shown by the Filipino and the Taiwanese, the Zhongguoren and the Hanggul Saram, the Nippongo and the Hindu, the Bangladeshi and the Pakistani, the varied groups and individuals from Southwest Asia, Americas, Oceania, Europe, Africa and the rest of Micronesia, await the paradigm shift that transcends current practices of rivalry and envy, competition and opposition, into cooperation and collaboration.

In the CNMI, ethnicity is challenged but it is not in danger. It is rather in the process of reformulation. It is the human soul that pales at the edge of oblivion. Pellegrino and Tan, et al, were once aliens to these shores but have made it their home. Might we learn to reach out to our neighbors like kin, and to the visitors as beloveds?

The endangered monk seal lounged on Hawaii's Ewa Beach shore this weekend, and when I walked away with my rumination, I heard it belch, "Nah!" We might want to prove it wrong!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Geekmocracy

We woke up one day last week and were greeted by news about information blackout. Wikipedia, one of the highest traffic sites on the Internet, shut down for 24 hours in protest of the anti-piracy bills proposed by the Don Quixotes in the U.S. Congress who bear the illusion of control. And overnight, SOPA and PIPA became part of our catalog of acronyms, courtesy of Facebook posts that have been shared away.

In their current forms, both SOPA and PIPA would authorize the U.S. Attorney General to kill a website, block it from domain name servers and delete results on search engines such as Google. Subsequently, this action would unweave the information mesh, the basic principle of the Internet. In other words, SOPA and PIPA are more "1984" than "1984," hence the opposition from constitutional pundits.

What the SOPA and PIPA proponents seem to overlook is the fact that the Internet is a borderless sphere, where no government can claim jurisdiction. It is an intangible community with renegade netizens and is guided by its own version of democratic rules that cannot be controlled by the mob of U.S. politics.

"Piracy and bootlegging are already illegal. But enforcement is always tricky; rules about appropriate reuse are confusing and not always reasonable; piracy operations are overseas and there is no barrier for U.S. Internet users to foreign sites (at least for now)," Phil Fox Rose writes in the online magazine *Busted Halo.* (Thank God for free knowledge, I can borrow his mind and I am able to cut and paste this paragraph.)

In an interview with CNN, Wikipedia cofounder Jimmy Wales noted that there is already a system in place to deal with pirates. "Within the U.S. the Digital Millennium Act notice-and-takedown provisions have worked very well. The question of whether foreign sites pose a legitimate problem is I think something that has not been sufficiently studied. It is a valid question," Wales said.

But when it comes to the issue of First Amendment concerns, Wales said, censoring the Internet will never be the right answer. "We also need to take a look at whether this is the right thing to be worrying about in the first place," he said. "One of the things that we know is that spending on entertainment is actually up."

I am biased, of course, being a self-confessed thief. I like free music and I support Pirate Bay. So sue me. Piracy is a philosophical rebellion against the corporate leviathan.

From yet another philosophical standpoint, the enforcement of the Stop Online Piracy Act and Protect Intellectual Property Act is doomed to fail, considering that knowledge has been demassified, easily accessible and, yes, easily stealable.

FLIGHTS

By MAR-VIC CAGURANGAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Mar-Vic Cagurangan is a Guam-based journalist. She is the former managing editor of Glimpses Publications and is now a full-time domestic goddess. Send feedback to mar_vic_cagurangan@yahoo.com.

SOPA and PIPA are defeatist attempts to curb the evolution of mass consciousness. I must confess I long for the old world where those who studied Philosophy were distinct from the rest of humanity. But I may be obsolete. My arrogance and conceit no longer have a place in a brave new world controlled by armies of geeks, who comprise the new generation that invented free knowledge. We are beginning to see the dissolution of the individual human mind, which will slowly be integrated into a collage of information authored by all—or by no one. The challenge for us now is how to judiciously use the knowledge capital made available to us by the flea market of free ideas.

Tan: On economic recovery

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

It is said that leaders don't fly with the flock. They usually fly alone. It grants them the opportunity to engage in critical intellectual pursuits by taking an overview of everything below. It's a wonderful time to think through issues in solitude.

Jerry Tan has trail-blazed the leadership sphere that's solely the domain for people with real leadership qualities. It's a place where others simply refuse to venture for realistic answers. He's diagnosed the issue, understands it thoroughly, then came back and offered "Saipan Air." It would soon begin providing direly needed air services from several large Japanese cities to the business center here.

Tan's visionary pursuit focuses on tourism recovery. It's the first step toward the larger goal to revive an entire economy. He knows that the water that once lifted our boat could lift it once more if we allow tidal shift or positive change to return to our shores. We must lift the heavy sheet metal from our port of entry and allow tidal shift to fill our hospitable harbor once more.

Obviously, he isn't passing the baton of leadership to others but reasonably expect key players to pitch in so the new business venture is soundly complimented during its initial years of operation. I am also in agreement that funds given to MVA must be viewed as an investment rather than just another expenditure. It supplies the blood veins of the industry with sustenance to pump life into our tourism sector.

Dazed as the elected elite may be, the least they could do is look intelligent as they mull policies and decisions to augment real time economic recovery.

■ ■ ■

Extending the olive branch

The vehicle that would have refined misgivings spewing out of the incipiency of NMI/feds relationship, Commission on Federal Laws, died a silent death. Both sides abandoned the gate altogether. That was the beginning of the dysfunctional relationship that has taken a turn for the worse: crusty fighting words and litigation.

The CNMI wasn't derailed by the parting of the ways. It was a beneficiary of the quota and tax fee provision under the Covenant Agreement on finished apparel products destined for the West Coast. It became a thriving industry that raked in some $2.1 billion annually at its peak.

But the World Trade Organization made a decision that freed Asian apparel producing countries from quotas. It turned our apparel industry's comparative advantage into grains of sand cascading down a once powerful pedestal. It brought down hundreds of collateral businesses with it. Slowly, the economy sputters to death as we watch tourism—the other economic pillar—take a nosedive when major airlines stopped services from big cities in Japan.

The implications of the double whammy left inept politicians dazed at the turn of events beyond their provincial views. None of them could unravel the huge loss in revenues by countering it with a fully thought-out recovery plan. They know not what to do and were reduced to inaction, still dazed at the magnitude of economic tsunami.

As the economy breaks down, it turns a once thriving community into ghost towns. Revenues have plunged, deficit spending skyrockets, feud intensifies over how meager revenues are divvied up to pay for bloated payroll, among others, coupled by an intensifying community dissatisfaction edging toward volcanic-like eruption. It seems every enthusiastic vision takes a complete reversion to *lamaña*. The elected elite guards its "Do Nothing" trophy, hoping its plated gold color sticks from village salt spray.

I have no solid answer other than to suggest that we return to square one. We may disagree and stay disagreeable with the feds, but donning adolescency isn't the appropriate paradigm either. To hasten recovery is to rebuild our dysfunctional relationship with the feds. Let's begin by extending the olive branch to them while staying steadfast in our belief in the essence of self-government.

■ ■ ■

Casino in Japan

It's a vicious public relations race between proponents and opponents of introducing the casino industry into Japan. Pro-casinos tout the revenue while the opposition explains the costlier and heavy social cost of the addictive nature of gambling.

Powerful gaming moguls are all from without, i.e., Macau and Las Vegas. As the addictive behavior forms and solidifies into irreversible habits among Japanese players, money made would be collected and repatriated to the two places while Japan deals with extensive social problems born and ruined by gambling. Is it really right to say we made money by draining our people of their last lifetime savings?

The casino industry does not lend to helping other sectors of the economy, according to an op-ed piece in the Japan Times. In fact, money collected is sent first to owners off-island, a drain against the local economy. Jobs created "do not necessarily result in a larger stimulation of the entire economy, nor do they prime the pump of consumer spending or contribute substantially to other industries. The amount of money spent on other leisure, consumption or recreation activities may also suffer a downturn when personal budgets are spent on gambling," the JT editorial said.

It also asserts that the "benefit weigh much more heavily than the short-term income of tax revenue. Casino gambling will not solve a country's long-term economic problems, which demand more reasoned and productive solutions." It beats logic why then would legislators want to drain what's left in an already disastrously ruined economy? Or has someone cloned St. Thomas?

Letters to the Editor

Positive outcome of minimum wage

Many of you out there think that if you raise the minimum wage it will harm the economy. I have proven that wrong from hiring construction workers for a home improvement project at my house. At that time the minimum wage was $3.05 an hour and the federal minimum wage was $5 or more an hour. I hired three people to do the project and I offered them $5 an hour. Well, not only did they finish the project nicely and on time, but they also offered me tips on where to get my materials and supplies for a good deal and where to rent equipment. So, my $10,000 project ended up costing me $6,000, which means I saved $4,000.

So you see, good things come your way when you also offer good products. Businesses with bad products end up with less or no customers; businesses with good products attract a lot of customers.

If we raise the minimum wage, locals might work in the private sector, plus employees will work harder and better to keep their job. Who knows, businesses might expand and bring home more bacon. So, look on the bright side, don't be greedy, for it will make everyone around you greedy too.

Winnie Atalig
San Jose, Tinian

Sorry

Dear fellow citizens: Last year, I was arrested for unlawful possession of a firearm. The simple truth is I acted totally inappropriately, and I knew better. I understand that a firearm is not a toy but a dangerous weapon and that the laws in place are there to protect us all. I will not make this mistake in the future.

I have served my time in jail for my mistake and hope my community accepts this as acceptable payment for my mistakes. I've had time to think, and as I've said, I will not repeat this again.

Andave M. Camacho
Tanapag, Saipan

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

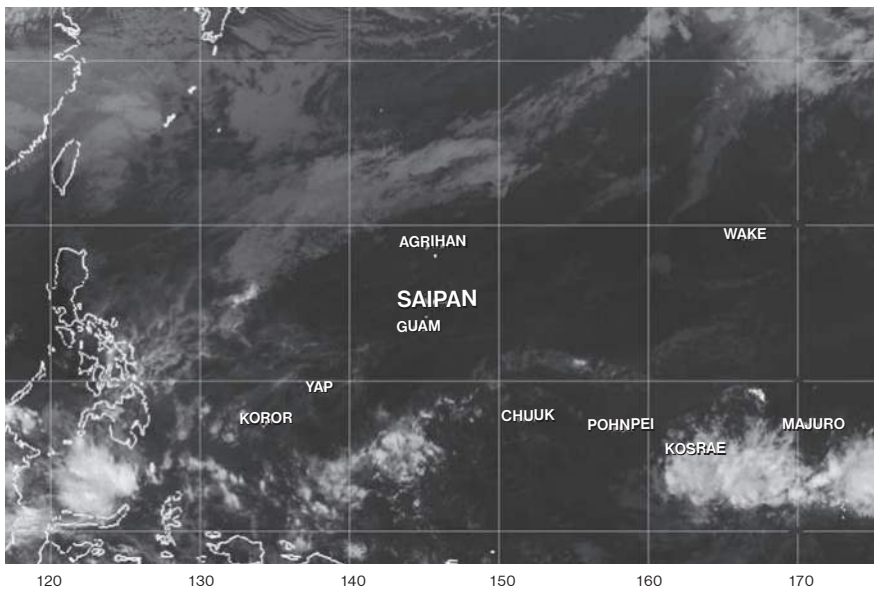
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼80
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼63
Beijing	Sunny	▲35	▼ 8
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲61	▼54
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼70
London	Showers	▲48	▼38
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲76	▼50
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼74
Melbourne	Sunny	▲75	▼60
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼68
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲41	▼33
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲43	▼35
Paris	Showers	▲49	▼35
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲42	▼25
Rome	Sunny	▲58	▼34
Salem	Rain	▲54	▼46
San Francisco	Sunny	▲67	▼52
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲35	▼18
Tokyo	Sunny	▲43	▼30
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲48	▼39

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N152E to beyond 130E at 19N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are found near and north of the front to beyond 25N including Iwo To island. A stationary front well east of Wake Island extends westward from 21N180 to 20N175E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are occurring in the area bounded by 24N180 to 20N180 to 20N175E back to 24N180. Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers near and south of Palau between the equator and 8N from 130E to 136E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Yap within 150 miles either side of a line from 3N138E to 6N145E. Another trade-wind disturbance is producing widespread cloudiness. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 2N and 6N from 162E to 177E including Kosrae but south of Majuro.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:00 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
9:40 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
3:33 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
8:36 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:51 AM	7:56 PM
Thursday	8:31 AM	8:46 PM
Friday	9:10 AM	9:35 PM
Saturday	9:47 AM	10:22 PM
Sunday	10:25 AM	11:10 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

BlackBerry maker's CEO: No drastic change needed

TORONTO (AP)—The new chief executive of Research in Motion said Monday that drastic change is not needed, even as the once iconic maker of the BlackBerry smartphone confronts the most difficult period in its history.

The Canadian company turned the smartphone into a ubiquitous device that many couldn't live without. But following the departure of Jim Balsillie and Mike Lazaridis, who stepped down as co-CEOs and co-chairmen, Thorsten Heins assumes the chief executive role at a time when Americans are abandoning their Blackberrys for flashier touch-screen phones such as Apple's iPhone and various competing models that run Google's Android software.

RIM's U.S. market share of smartphones dropped from 44 percent in 2009 to 10 percent in 2011, according to market researcher NPD Group. The company still has 75 million active subscribers, but many analysts believe the company will lose market share internationally, just as it has in the U.S.

Heins, formerly a little known chief operating officer who joined RIM four years ago from Siemens AG, replaces RIM's founders after the company has lost tens of billions in market value. Balsillie acknowledged in December that the last few quarters have been among the most challenging times the company has seen.

Even so, Heins said on a conference call on Monday that he didn't think significant change was needed. He said the leadership change was not a "seismic" event. Heins said he's committed to switching the company's phones over to a new operating system, which is expected late this year. That's the same plan favored by Lazaridis and Balsillie, who announced Sunday they would step down from the top jobs, but serve in other roles.

Heins said RIM has to improve its U.S. marketing to go beyond the traditional corporate customer.

"I want us to have a bit more of an ear towards the consumer market, understand trends, and not just do what the Street is telling you," Heins said.

Shares of RIM fell eight percent, or $1.39 cents to $15.61, following his remarks. The stock had initially moved up almost 4 percent in premarket trading.

Heins said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press that RIM doesn't have plans "right now" to put the company up for the sale or to split it up. He reiterated there is no reason for a "shake up" of RIM. He explained that he would consult with Lazaridis and Balsille on major decisions because they remain board members.

"I've worked really well with Mike in the past. He is a founder of an iconic company, a great innovator. For sure, I will seek his advice and his counsel where needed and I will have my discussions with him, but the company is run by the CEO and that's what you'll see," Heins said.

Heins' top priority will be to release smartphones that run the company's long-awaited Blackberry 10 software. "I will do everything I can to make that happen, but I cannot commit to a very specific date. But, yes, we will ship BlackBerry devices later this year on BlackBerry 10," he said.

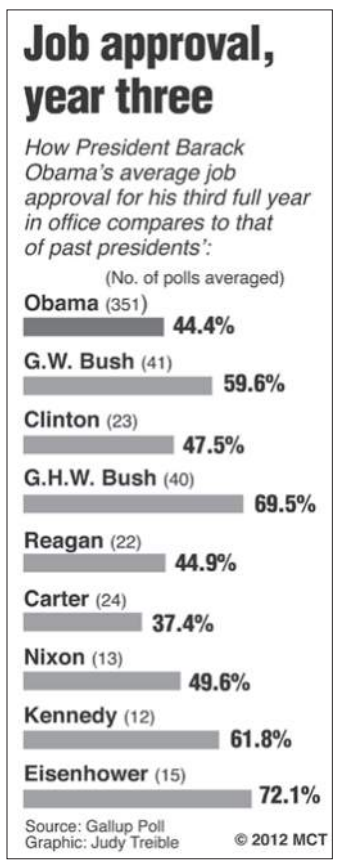
AP

In this July 12, 2011 photo, co-chief executives Mike Lazaridis, left, and Jim Balsillie appear at the Research in Motion annual meeting in Waterloo, Ontario.

Vic Alboini, president of Jaguar Financial Corp. in Toronto, which has been pushing for a change in leadership, said the drop in stock price on Monday meant the market saw the leadership adjustment as "more of the same."

Many shareholders and analysts have said a change or sale of the company has been needed, but the sudden departure of the two founders from their top jobs wasn't expected despite their promises that they would examine the co-CEO and co-chairmen structure.

State of Union: Obama to take on economic anxiety


Job approval, year three
How President Barack Obama's average job approval for his third full year in office compares to that of past presidents':
(No. of polls averaged)
Obama (351) 44.4%
G.W. Bush (41) 59.6%
Clinton (23) 47.5%
G.H.W. Bush (40) 69.5%
Reagan (22) 44.9%
Carter (24) 37.4%
Nixon (13) 49.6%
Kennedy (12) 61.8%
Eisenhower (15) 72.1%
Source: Gallup Poll
Graphic: Judy Treible
© 2012 MCT

WASHINGTON (AP)—Eager to command center stage in a year dominated by Republican infighting, President Barack Obama is polishing a State of the Union address that will go to the heart of Americans' economic anxiety and try to sway voters to give him four more years. He will speak Tuesday to a nation worried about daily struggles and unhappy with his handling of the economy.

Obama's 9 p.m. EST address before a politically divided Congress will be built around ideas meant to appeal to a squeezed middle class. He is expected to urge higher taxes on the wealthy, propose ways to make college more affordable, offer new steps to tackle a debilitating housing crisis and try to help U.S. manufacturers expand hiring.

Designed as a way for a president to update the nation and recommend ideas to Congress, the State of the Union address has become more than that, especially during that one window when the address falls during the re-election year of an incumbent. It is televised theater—and Obama's biggest, best chance so far to offer a vision for a second term.

He will frame the campaign to come as a fight for fairness for those who are struggling to keep a job, a home or college savings and losing faith in how the county works.

The speech will be principally about the economy, featuring the themes of manufacturing, clean energy, education and American values.

No matter whom Obama faces in November, the election is likely to be driven by the economy, and determined by which candidate wins voters' trust on how to fix it. More people than not disapprove of Obama's handling of the economy.

The overarching political goal is to give voters a contrast between his vision of a government that tries to level the playing field and those office-seekers who, in his view, would leave people on their own. Without naming them, Obama has in his sights those after his job, including Republicans Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich.

The presidential campaign sets an unmistakable context for the speech, right down to the nation's income gap between haves and have-nots. Obama will speak on a few hours after Romney, a former governor and businessman whose wealth is the hundreds of millions of dollars, will release tax records for 2010 and 2011.

The lines of argument between Obama and his rivals are already stark, with America's economic insecurity and the role of government at the center.

Study finds tablet, e-book ownership soared

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Tablets and e-readers were a popular gift over the holidays, so much so that the number of people who own them nearly doubled between mid-December and January, a new study finds.

A report from the Pew Internet and American Life Project, released on Monday, found that 29 percent of Americans owned at least one tablet or e-reader as of the beginning of this month. That's up from 18 percent who said the same in December.

The iPad from Apple Inc. is perhaps the best-known example of these gadgets, along with Amazon.com's various Kindle devices and the Nook from Barnes and Noble. The iPad put tablets on the map and the cheaper Kindle Fire and Nook devices helped get them in the hands of more people.

The percentage of people who own a tablet jumped to 19 from 10 between mid-December and early January. E-book reader ownership also rose to 19 percent from 10 percent of U.S. adults.

Men and women were equally likely to own tablets, and the likelihood of tablet ownership was higher for people with higher household incomes, the report found. Those with higher levels of education were also more likely to own tablets than those who completed fewer years of school.

E-readers, meanwhile, were slightly more common among women.

The figures are from ongoing surveys conducted by Pew about tablet and e-reader ownership. They were conducted between November 2011 and January 2012. The first, pre-holiday survey was conducted among 2,986 Americans 16 and older. Two post-holiday surveys were conducted among about 2,000 adults in January.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil up as EU embargoes Iran oil; natural gas soars

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices climbed near $100 per barrel as Iran again threatened to block shipments of crude from the Persian Gulf. The latest threat follows a widely expected decision by the European Union to embargo imports of Iranian oil. Monday also featured a sharp turnaround in natural gas prices. Futures rose more than 7 percent after one of America's biggest natural gas producers said it would cut production this year. Tanker traffic out of the Persian Gulf has concerned oil traders for weeks, with Iran saying it could close the strategic Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's crude is transported, in response to sanctions by the West.

On the menu at more Starbucks: Wine and beer

SEATTLE (AP)—Starbucks Corp., the company that proved there's no such thing as paying too much for a cup of coffee, is expanding its experiment with two other elixirs that Americans love, wine and beer. The company said Monday it will start selling wine, beer and "premium" foods, like small plates and hot flatbread sandwiches, at four to six stores in Atlanta and another four to six stores in Southern California by the end of the year. That builds on the company's recent announcement of the same plans for about half a dozen stores in Chicago. Starbucks first tested the wine and beer concept at a store in its headquarters city of Seattle in October 2010.

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,708.80	1,316.00	2,784.17
-11.66	0.62	-2.53
-0.09%	0.05%	-0.09%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9528	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7609	Philippine Peso	43.1500
British Pound	0.6431	Indian Rupee	50.0050	Singapore Dollar	1.2672
Canadian Dollar	1.0087	Indonesian Rupiah	8,945.00	South Korean Won	1,129.62
Chinese Yuan	6.3155	Japanese Yen	77.0280	Swiss Franc	0.9276
Euro	0.7688	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1075	Taiwan Dollar	29.9630
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2346	Thailand Baht	31.3800

Nation

Heated charges, counter-charges in Florida debate

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Republican presidential contenders Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich clashed repeatedly in heated, personal terms Monday night in a crackling campaign debate, the former Massachusetts governor tagging his rival as a Washington "influence peddler," only to be accused in turn of spreading falsehoods over many years in politics.

"You've been walking around the state saying things that are untrue," Gingrich told his rival in a two-hour debate marked by occasional interruptions and finger-pointing.

The event marked the first encounter among the four remaining GOP contenders—former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum and Texas Rep. Ron Paul shared the stage—since Gingrich won the South Carolina primary in an upset last weekend.

His double-digit victory reset the race to pick a rival to challenge Democratic President Barack Obama this fall, and the next contest is the Jan. 31 Florida primary.

With a week of campaigning ahead, Romney is expected to release his income tax return for 2010 as well as an estimate for 2011 on Tuesday. He said it will show he paid all the taxes he was obligated to pay, adding, "I don't think the voters want a president who pays more than he owes."

Following his defeat in South Carolina, Romney can ill afford to lose in Florida, and he was the aggressor from the opening moments Monday night. He said Gingrich had "resigned in disgrace" from Congress after four years as speaker and then had spent the next 15 years "working as an influence peddler."

In particular, he referred to the contract Gingrich's consulting firm had with Freddie Mac, a government-backed mortgage giant that he said "did a lot of bad for a lot of people and you were working there."

Romney also said Gingrich had lobbied lawmakers to approve legislation creating a new prescription drug benefit under Medicare.

"I have never, ever gone and done any lobbying," Gingrich retorted emphatically, adding that his firm had hired an expert to explain to employees "the bright line between what you can do as a citizen and what you do as a lobbyist."

Romney counterpunched, referring to the $300,000 that Gingrich's consulting firm received in 2006 from Freddie Mac, the government-backed mortgage giant.

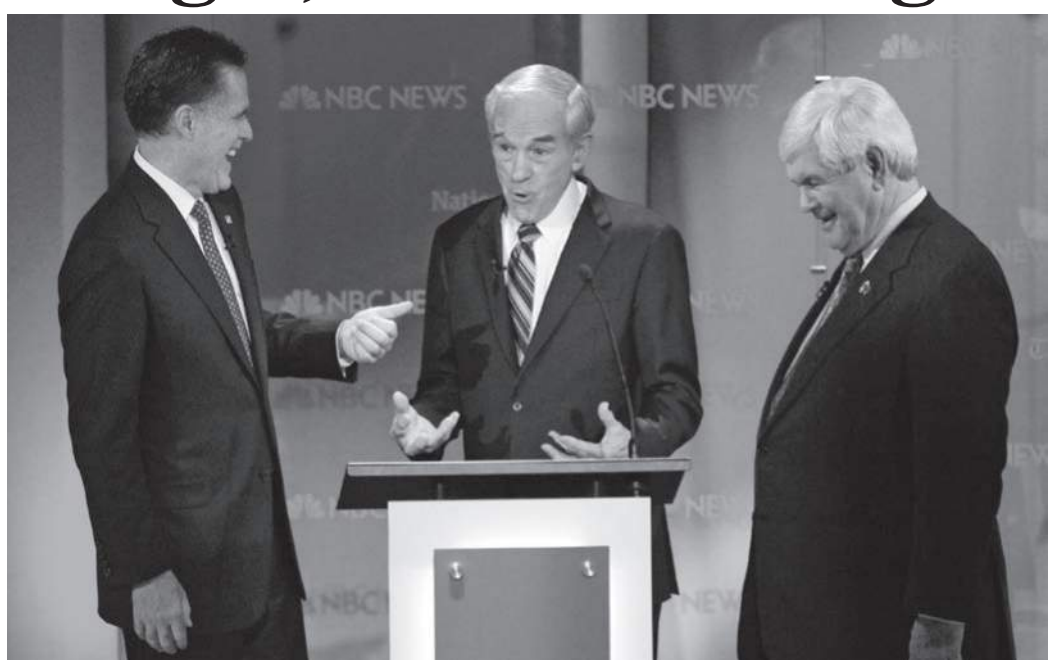
And when Gingrich sought to turn the tables by inquiring about the private equity firm that Romney founded, the former Massachusetts governor replied: "We didn't do any work with the government. ...I wasn't a lobbyist."

As for the Medicare prescription drug benefit, Gingrich expressed pride in having supported it. "It has saved lives. It's run on a free enterprise model," he said in a state that is home to millions of seniors.

Whatever the stated subject, the debate's subtext was character—and electability, the quality that Republican voters say consistently matters most to them in the race.

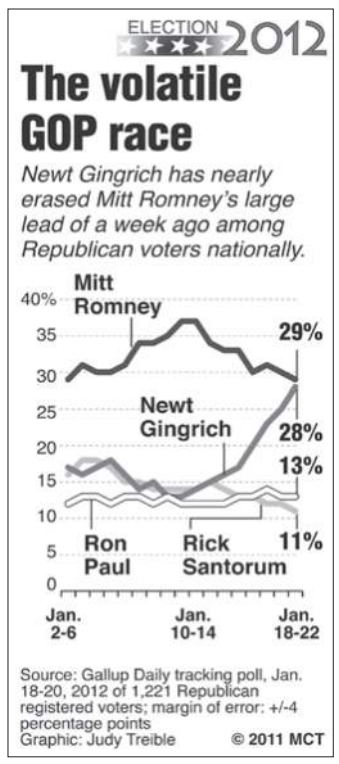
Gingrich said voters don't want a president who will "manage the decay," but change the country. "That requires sending somebody who's prepared to be controversial when necessary."

Romney pointed to his career in business, his turn as head of the Salt Lake City Olympics and a term as governor of Massachusetts.



AP

Republican presidential candidate, Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, center, shares a joke with former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, left, and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, right, during a break in a Republican presidential debate Monday, Jan. 23, 2012, at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Fla.



Giffords says farewell to Tucson constituents

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—On a bittersweet day for Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, the outgoing congresswoman spent her final hours in Tucson as the city's U.S. representative, finishing the meeting she started on the morning she was shot and bidding farewell to constituents who supported her through a long recovery.

It may not be the end, though. The woman whose improbable recovery captivated the nation promised, "I will return."

Giffords spent time Monday at her office with other survivors of the shooting rampage that killed six people and injured 13. She hugged and talked with survivors, including Suzi Hileman, who was shot three times while trying to save her young friend and neighbor, 9-year-old Christina-Taylor Green. The little girl died from a gunshot wound to the chest.

"The last time I did this I had Christina's hand," Hileman said. "It was something that was hanging out there, and now it's not."

Others who met with Giffords included Pat Maisch, who was hailed as a hero for wrestling a gun magazine from the shooter that day, and Daniel Hernandez, Giffords' intern at the time who helped save her life by trying to stop her bleeding until an ambulance arrived.

"It was very touching," said Maisch, who was not hurt in the attack. "I thanked her for her service, wished her well, and she just looked beautiful."

Giffords announced Sunday that she would resign from Congress this week to focus on her recovery. Maisch was sad to think that Giffords would no longer be her congresswoman.

"But I want her to do what's best for her," she said. "She's got to take care of herself."

However, an upbeat Giffords hinted that her departure from public life might be temporary. In a message sent on Twitter, she said: "I will return & we will work together for Arizona & this great country."

In her last act in Tucson as a congresswoman, the Democrat visited one of her favorite charities, the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona.

The food bank established the Gabrielle Giffords Family Assistance Center with $215,000 it received in the wake of the shooting. Giffords' husband and former astronaut Mark Kelly told people who wanted to help Giffords after the shooting that the best way to do so was to donate to one of her favorite charities.

The center has helped 900 families get on food stamps in the last year and offered guidance to needy families seeking assistance with housing, insurance, clothing and other basic needs.

Ground zero building struggles to find tenants

NEW YORK (AP)—An 80-story skyscraper under construction at ground zero will have to stop at seven stories unless the developer can line up more tenants, planners said Monday, adding to problems that have plagued the $11.7 billion World Trade Center project.

Silverstein Properties Inc. said it is still looking for tenants to fill the first 10 floors of Three World Trade Center, the third-highest building in the planned office complex. Without those leases, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey will not guarantee the financing that Silverstein needs to finish the building.

Construction would end at the "podium" level on the seventh floor, with the option of building up later on, and the floors below would be filled mainly with retail stores.

Many companies in New York are reluctant to invest in new offices because of the poor economy, and dozens are negotiating lower rents as five-year leases signed before the housing crash begin to expire. But both Silverstein and the Port Authority said they are confident the developer can get enough tenants lined up.

"We are currently speaking with a number of potential tenants and remain fully optimistic that we will sign a lease in time to complete the tower as scheduled in 2015," Larry Silverstein, the company's chief executive, said in a written statement.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said that he would be disappointed if Three World Trade did not go higher, but that the city would not extend any aid to keep it going. The most important part of the project, he said, is laying the infrastructure for future construction.

"If you did that and you couldn't keep building up, I think that's a shame," Bloomberg told reporters. "But there are things that should depend on the marketplace and investors. That should be up to them."

The 10-story "pre-lease" requirement is included in a 2010 agreement between Silverstein and the Port Authority.

The second-highest building planned for the complex, the 88-story 2 World Trade Center, is also on hold because of a lack of tenants. Workers are finishing the underground parts of that building but will cap it at ground level.

The difficulty in finding tenants comes amid other problems that have dogged the World Trade Center project.

Warrant needed for GPS tracking, high court says

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a rare defeat for law enforcement, the Supreme Court unanimously agreed on Monday to bar police from installing GPS technology to track suspects without first getting a judge's approval. The justices made clear it wouldn't be their final word on increasingly advanced high-tech surveillance of Americans.

Indicating they will be monitoring the growing use of such technology, five justices said they could see constitutional and privacy problems with police using many kinds of electronic surveillance for long-term tracking of citizens' movements without warrants.

While the justices differed on legal rationales, their unanimous outcome was an unusual setback for government and police agencies grown accustomed to being given leeway in investigations in post-Sept. 11 America, including by the Supreme Court. The views of at least the five justices raised the possibility of new hurdles down the road for police who want to use high-tech surveillance of suspects, including various types of GPS technology.

"The Supreme Court's decision is an important one because it sends a message that technological advances cannot outpace the American Constitution," said Donald Tibbs, a professor at the Earle Mack School of Law at Drexel University. "The people will retain certain rights even when technology changes how the police are able to conduct their investigations."

A GPS device installed by police on Washington, D.C., nightclub owner Antoine Jones' Jeep and tracked for four weeks helped link him to a suburban house used to stash money and drugs. He was sentenced to life in prison before an appeals court overturned his conviction.

It's not clear how much difficulty police agencies would have with warrant requirements in this area; historically they are rarely denied warrants they request. But the Obama administration argued that getting one could be cumbersome, perhaps impossible in the early stages of an investigation. In the Jones case, police got a warrant but did not install the GPS device until after the warrant had expired and then in a jurisdiction that wasn't covered by the document.

Justice Antonin Scalia said the government's installation of the device, and its use of the GPS to monitor the vehicle's movements, constituted a search, meaning a warrant was required. "Officers encroached on a protected area," Scalia wrote.

Relying on a centuries-old legal principle, he concluded that the police action without a warrant was a trespass and therefore an illegal search. He was joined in his opinion by Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas and Sonia Sotomayor.

Asia

Pakistan rejects US self-defense claim on strikes

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's army on Monday formally rejected a U.S. claim that American airstrikes that killed 24 Pakistani troops last year were justified as self-defense, a stance that could complicate efforts to repair the troubled but vital relationship between the two countries.

In a detailed report, the army said that Pakistani troops did not trigger the Nov. 26 incident at two posts along the Afghan border by firing at American and Afghan forces, as the U.S. has alleged. Pakistan's army said its troops shot at suspected militants who were nowhere near coalition troops.

"Trying to affix partial responsibility of the incident on Pakistan is, therefore, unjustified and unacceptable," said the report, which was issued in response to the U.S. investigation that concluded at the end of December.

The U.S. expressed condolences for the deaths of the Pakistani soldiers but said American troops acted "with appropriate force" in self-defense because they thought they were being attacked by Taliban insurgents.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said the U.S. stood by the "thorough" investigation into the Nov. 26 incident conducted by the military's U.S. Central Command.

"We did offer to the Pakistani government, to the Pakistani military, that they could participate fully in our investigation and have their own people on our team. They declined to participate. That could have led to more convergence of view, perhaps," she told a news briefing Monday.

Pakistan responded quickly to the deadly attack by closing its border crossings to supplies for NATO troops in Afghanistan. The borders have remained closed, and Pakistan also kicked the U.S. out of a base that was used to service American drones.

AP

In this Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011 file photo, Pakistani protesters burn an effigy of US President Barrack Obama during a protest to condemn killings of Pakistani troops in NATO airstrikes, in Peshawar, Pakistan.

The differing accounts of what happened could make it difficult for the two sides to move forward, but many analysts believe they will find a way because it's in their own interests to do so. The U.S. needs Pakistan's help in targeting Islamist militants within the country and negotiating peace with the Taliban in Afghanistan. Islamabad is heavily reliant on billions of dollars in aid from Washington.

Pakistan said the fundamental cause of the deadly airstrikes was the decision by coalition forces not to tell Pakistan that American and Afghan troops were conducting an operation near the border inside Afghanistan before dawn on Nov. 26.

Brig. Gen. Stephen Clark, an Air Force special operations officer who led the U.S. investigation, has said U.S. and NATO commanders believed some of their military operations were compromised after details and locations were given to the Pakistanis. Clark has also said that U.S. forces did not know that the two relatively new Pakistani outposts—simple structures constructed with stacked gray stones—had been set up on a mountain ridge along the border.

The Pakistani army countered that coalition forces must have known about the two posts set up at the end of September 2011, because they had conducted at least one other operation in the area afterward. Coalition aircraft also conducted constant surveillance of the area, the Pakistanis said.

The army said previously that it provided NATO with maps clearly marking the location of the border posts, but that claim did not appear in its report.

The U.S. has said its forces attacked the posts after Pakistani troops targeted them with heavy machine gun fire and "effective" mortar fire.

The Pakistani army said its soldiers did not shoot in the direction of the patrol, but instead fired three mortars and "a few machine gun rounds" at a location at least 1 mile (1.5 kilometers) away from the coalition forces.

Brothers reunited in Japan after 6 decades apart

KYOTO, Japan (AP)—They no longer speak the same language, but two brothers separated nearly 60 years each think the other hasn't changed a bit.

Japanese-American Minoru Ohye celebrate his 86th birthday Monday with his only brother after traveling to Japan for a reunion with him.

The brothers were born in Sacramento, California, but were separated as children after their father died in a fishing accident. They were sent to live with relatives in Japan and ended up in different homes.

The reunited brothers hugged in a hotel room and exchanged gifts of California chocolate and Japanese sake. The American brother wore his trademark baseball cap and jeans. The Japanese bother wore a suit and tie.

But the same bright eyes and square jaws were a dead giveaway that they were brothers. They both loved golf and had back pains. They thought the other hadn't changed a bit.

"If we miss this chance, we may never meet. You never know," said Ohye, energetic except for a sore knee. "Either he may die, or I may die."

Separated across the Pacific, their only prior meeting had been a brief one in the mid-1950s when Ohye stopped by Japan while serving in the U.S. Army in the demilitarized zone on the Korean peninsula.

AP

Minoru Ohye, right, toasts with his younger brother Hiroshi Kamimura during their reunion in Kyoto, Japan, Monday, Jan. 23, 2012.

His brother, Hiroshi Kamimura, 84, was adopted by a Japanese family, grew up in the ancient capital of Kyoto and became a tax accountant. He married and had three sons.

Ohye joined the youth group of the Japanese Imperial Army at 13 and went to Russia, where he was sent to a Siberian coal mine when Japan surrendered. He returned to be with his mother in Yuba City, California, in 1951, and worked as a bookbinder and a gardener.

He became homeless when he failed to collect payment for a restaurant he ran and later sold in the late 1950s.

About 10 years ago, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a welfare service organization for U.S. veterans, found him a spot in the Eskaton Wilson Manor home for the elderly.

It was Eskaton's program to grant a wish called "Thrill of a Lifetime" that got Ohye back to Japan.

While others wished for rafting trips and football game tickets, the only thing Ohye wanted was to see his brother again. Eskaton administrator Debbie Reynolds put together a fundraiser for Ohye's trip.

Kamimura acknowledged it had been difficult to communicate with his brother through telephone calls because he didn't understand English. They would exchange a lot of "hellos" and then their conversations ended, he said.

"I am happy. He is the only brother I have," Kamimura said after watching Ohye blow out the candles on a birthday cake at a restaurant. "This may be our last time together."

Brian Berry, a graduate student at the University of Tokyo who was approached by Reynolds to help with the reunion and got Ohye from the Tokyo airport to Kyoto, was relieved the brothers were together at last.

"Even over time, with all that has been gone through, still the only thing you are thinking about is your family," he said. "Right when you're near the end of your life, you are still thinking about your family."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan PM vows to tackle debt, calls for teamwork

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's prime minister has pledged to push ahead with tax and social security reform and called on opposition politicians to cooperate to achieve "decisive politics." Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda's speech kicks off what is expected to be a contentious parliamentary session dominated by debate over Noda's goal to raise the sales tax and reduce the country's fiscal deficit. Noda has promised to submit a bill by end of March to double the 5 percent sales tax by 2015. The plan has divided parliament and the ruling Democratic party.

Gunmen fire on fishermen in PH, kill 15

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Gunmen in the restive southern Philippines opened fire on three boats and killed 15 fishermen in what officials said Tuesday was likely an attack by a rival group protecting its lucrative fishing grounds. The fishermen were aboard three small, wooden-hulled vessels off Sibago Island in Basilan province when attackers in speedboats fired on them Monday morning and then sped away, military spokesman Lt. Col. Randolph Cagangbang said. There were about 10 attackers, police said. No arrests have been made yet as the news reached authorities late because of the remoteness of the area, senior police official Felicisimo Khu said.

Sumatran elephants could be extinct in 30 years

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Environmentalists say the Sumatran elephant could be extinct in the wild within the next three decades unless steps are taken to slow the breakneck pace of deforestation. The International Union for Conservation of Nature recently listed the animals as "critically endangered," after their numbers dropped to between 2,400 and 2,800 from an estimated 5,000 in 1985. The decline is largely because of destruction of their habitat, with forests all across the Indonesian island of Sumatra clear-cut for timber, palm oil or agricultural plantations.

New Zealand whale stranding kills 36, threatens 40

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A mass-stranding of whales on a New Zealand beach has left 36 of the creatures dead and threatens 40 more. Department of Conservation area manager John Mason says that 99 pilot whales stranded themselves Monday on Farewell Spit on the South Island. By Tuesday, 36 whales had died and another 40 were still in danger after remaining in shallow water. Mason said conservation staff and volunteers had successfully refloated the other whales, which had swum out to deeper water.

World

2 more bodies found, fuel removal to begin on ship

ROME (AP)—Nudged gently by the tides off Tuscany, the capsized *Costa Concordia* has been deemed stable enough on its rocky perch for salvagers to begin pumping fuel oil from its giant tanks as early as Tuesday.

The cruise liner, its hull gashed by a reef and pocked by holes blasted by divers searching for the missing, yielded two more bodies Monday, 10 days after the accident. The corpses of two women were found in the luxury liner's Internet cafe, now 55 feet (17 meters) underwater.

Tables, desks, elegant upholstered armchairs and cabinets bobbed in the sea as divers guided the furniture out of the holes to clear space for their exploration inside.

So far, the bodies of 15 people have been found, most of them in the submerged portion of the vessel, while 17 others remain unaccounted for. Authorities said earlier reports that an unregistered Hungarian woman had called friends from the ship before it flipped over turned out to be groundless.

The Concordia rammed a reef and capsized Jan. 13 off the tiny Tuscan island of Giglio as it was carrying 4,200 passengers and crew on a Mediterranean cruise.

Salvage experts received the green light Monday to start pumping fuel soon from the double-lined tanks of the Concordia. The weekslong fuel-removal operation aims to avert a possible environmental catastrophe in the waters off Giglio, part of a protected seven-island marine park.

Officials said the pumping would be carried out as divers continue the search for the missing since instrument readings have determined the Concordia was not at risk of sliding into deeper waters and being swallowed by the sea.

"The ship is stable," said Franco Gabrielli, head of the national civil protection agency. "There is no problem or danger that it is about to drop onto much lower seabed."

Meanwhile, an oily film was spotted about 300 yards (meters) from the capsized vessel by officials flying in a helicopter and by residents of Giglio, Gabrielli's office said. Samples were being analyzed, but preliminary observations indicated the slick is a light oil and not from heavy fuel inside the Concordia's tanks.

AP

Italian Navy scuba divers return after working on the grounded cruise ship Costa Concordia off the Tuscan island of Giglio, Italy, Monday, Jan. 23, 2012.

Absorbent panels put around the area seem to have at least partially absorbed the oil, authorities said.

The ship's Italian captain, Francesco Schettino, is under house arrest near Naples, facing possible charges of manslaughter, causing a shipwreck and abandoning his vessel while some people were still aboard. He has insisted that he was coordinating rescue operations from a lifeboat and then from shore.

The ship's operator, Costa Crociere SpA, has distanced itself from the captain, contending he made an unauthorized detour from the ship's authorized route. Schettino, however, has reportedly told investigators that Costa officials requested that he sail close to Giglio in a publicity move.

In a statement issued late Monday, Costa said it would refund passengers the full cost of the cruise and reimburse all travel and any medical expenses incurred as a result of the accident.

Schettino's lawyer, Bruno Leporatti, told reporters Monday that tests on urine and hair samples showed his client was not under the influence of alcohol or drugs before the crash. Prosecutors are not allowed to discuss the investigation while it is under way and it was impossible to confirm the report.

Despite earlier fears, officials said the crippled cruise ship, with a 230-foot (70-meter) gash in its hull, is not expected to roll off its rocky seabed perch and be swallowed by the sea.

An Italian geologist on Giglio monitoring the ship's movements said the Concordia was not so much moving as "responding to the tides."

"It is moving at the rate of about one or two millimeters an hour," Nicola Casagli told Sky TV TG24.

The sea has been calm for several days but was expected to become choppy in the next few days.

Islanders have been pressing for removal of the heavy, tar-like fuel from the ship's 17 tanks to avert a possible catastrophic leak.

"They should start the oil drainage operations on the ship. At this point those who died will not come back to life. Even if they pull them out later, unfortunately it won't make a difference," Giglio resident Andrea Ginanneschi told The Associated Press.

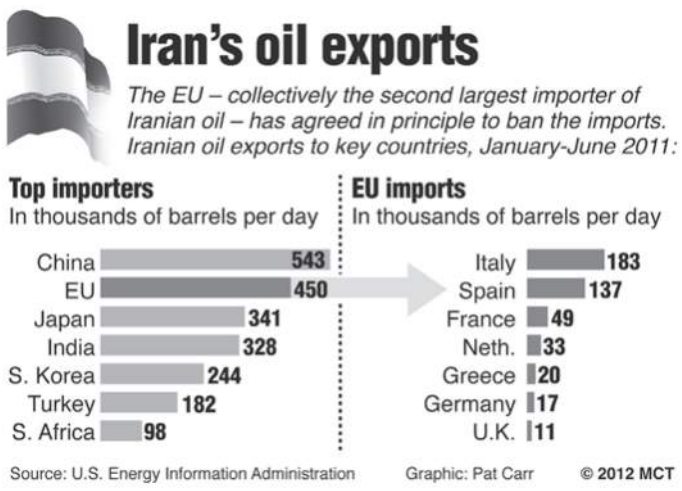
Five miles (eight kilometers) of oil barriers have been laid to protect marine life and the pristine waters, which are prime fishing grounds and a protected area for dolphins and whales.

Recovery experts from the Dutch salvage company Smit have said they will create holes in the top and the bottom of each tank, heating the fuel so it flows more easily and pumping from the top while forcing air in from the bottom. For the underwater tanks, sea water will be used to displace the fuel, which becomes thick and gooey when cooled.

Iran revives Gulf threats after EU sanctions

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Senior Iranian lawmakers have stepped up threats that Islamic Republic warships could block the Persian Gulf's oil tanker traffic after the latest blow by Western leaders seeking to rein in Tehran's nuclear program: A punishing oil embargo by the European Union that sharply raises the economic stakes for Iran's defiance.

The EU decision taken Monday in Brussels—following the U.S. lead to target Iran's critical oil exports—opened a new front against Iran's leadership. Pressure is bearing down on the clerical regime from many directions, including intense U.S. lobbying to urge Asian powers to shun Iranian crude, a nose-diving national currency and a recent slaying in what Iran calls a clandestine campaign against its nuclear establishment.



In response, Iranian officials have turned to one of their most powerful cards: The narrow Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf and the route for a fifth of the world's oil. Iran has rattled world markets with repeated warnings it could block the hook-shaped waterway, which could spark a conflict in the Gulf.

Military experts have questioned whether Iran has the naval capabilities to attempt a blockade. But the U.S. and allies have already said they would take swift action against any Iranian moves to choke off the 30-mile (50-kilometer) wide strait—where the American aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, along with British and French warships, entered the Gulf on Sunday without incident.

The British Ministry of Defense said the three nations sought to "underline the unwavering international commitment to maintaining rights of passage under international law."

Earlier this month, Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, told CBS' "Face the Nation" that Iranian forces could block shipping through the strait "for a period of time," but added "we can defeat that" and restore the flow of oil and other commerce. He did not offer details on a U.S. military response, but the Pentagon is believed to have contingency plans for such a scenario.

WORLD BRIEFS

Gadhafi loyalists attack Libyan towns, killing 7

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—Forces loyal to Libya's late leader Moammar Gadhafi launched a series of attacks on Monday across several cities, killing seven fighters who helped topple the former regime, officials and residents said. The violence comes as Libya's new leaders struggle to stamp out lingering resistance from pro-Gadhafi forces and try to unify a deeply fractured country after eight months of civil war and more than 40 years of authoritarian rule. The attacks were spread out and took place in the western city of Bani Walid, the capital Tripoli and the eastern city of Benghazi, the city where the uprising against Gadhafi started nearly a year ago. It is not clear if the attacks were coordinated.

French parliament passes Armenian 'genocide' bill

PARIS (AP)—France's parliament voted Monday to make it a crime to deny that the killings of Armenians by Ottoman Turks nearly a century ago constituted a genocide, risking more sanctions from Turkey and complicating an already delicate relationship with the rising power. Turkey, which sees the allegations of genocide as a threat to its national honor, suspended military, economic and political ties and briefly recalled its ambassador last month when the lower house of parliament approved the same bill. Before Monday's Senate vote, Turkey threatened more measures if the bill passed, though did not specify them.

Rwanda war-crimes suspect deported

MONTREAL (AP)—A Rwandan man has been deported from Canada for allegedly helping incite Rwanda's 1994 genocide. Leon Mugesera was taken to an airport in Montreal by Canadian border-services agents and Rwanda's Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo later confirmed in a twitter account note on Monday that he had left on a plane bound for Kigali, Rwanda's capital. Canadian officials did not comment. Mugesera, 59, had been living in Canada for nearly two decades and was wanted in Rwanda on charges stemming from the 1994 massacre.

Focus

Sri Lanka donates eyes to the world

By MARGIE MASON
AP MEDICAL WRITER

AP
In this Oct. 16, 2011 photo, a worker at the Sri Lanka Eye Donation Society holds three corneas in bottles with preservatives, ready to be sent abroad, in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—At 10:25 a.m., a dark brown eye was removed from a man whose lids had closed for the last time. Five hours later, the orb was staring up at the ceiling from a stainless steel tray in an operating room with two blind patients—both waiting to give it a second life.

S.P.D. Siriwardana, 63, remained still under a white sheet as the surgeon delicately replaced the cornea that had gone bad in his right eye following a cataract surgery. Across the room, patient A.K. Premathilake, 32, waited for the sclera, the white of the eye, to provide precious stem cells and restore some vision after acid scalded his sight away on the job.

"The eye from this dead person was transplanted to my son," said A.K. Admon Singho, who guided Premathilake through the hall after the surgery. "He's dead, but he's still alive. His eye can still see the world."

This gift of sight is so common here it's become an unwritten symbol of pride and culture for Sri Lanka, an island of about 20 million people located off the southern coast of India. Despite recently emerging from a quarter century of civil war, the country is among the world's largest cornea providers.

It donates about 3,000 corneas a year and has provided tissue to 57 countries over nearly a half century, with Pakistan receiving the biggest share, according to the nonprofit Sri Lanka Eye Donation Society. The organization began promoting eye donation decades ago, but has since faced allegations of mismanagement and poor quality standards.

The supply of corneas is so great in Sri Lanka that a new, state-of-the-art government eye bank opened last year, funded by Singapore donors. It has started collecting tissue from patients at one of the country's largest hospitals, hoping to add an additional 2,000 corneas to those already shipped abroad annually. Nearly 900,000 people have also signed up to give their eyes in death through the Eye Donation Society's longstanding eye bank.

"People ask me, 'Can we donate our eyes while we are living? Because we have two eyes, can we donate one?'" said Dr. Sisira Liyanage, director of Sri Lanka's National Eye Hospital in the capital, Colombo, where the new eye bank is based. "They are giving just because of the willingness to help others. They are not accepting anything."

The desire to help transcends social and economic barriers. Prime ministers pass on their corneas here along with the poorest tea farmers. Many Sri Lankans, about 67 percent of whom are Buddhist, believe that surrendering their eyes at death completes an act of "dana," or giving, which helps them be reincarnated into a better life.

It's a concept that was first promoted a half century ago by the late Dr. Hudson Silva, who was frustrated by the massive shortage of corneas in his native Sri Lanka. Most eyes back then were harvested from the handful of prisoners hanged each year, leaving little hope for blind patients in need of transplants.

Silva wrote a newspaper piece in the late 1950s pledging to donate his own corneas and appealing to readers to also give "Life to a Dead Eye." The response was overwhelming.

With no lab facilities or high-tech equipment, he and wife Irangani de Silva began harvesting eyes and storing them in their home refrigerator. They started the Eye Donation Society, and in 1964, the first cornea sent abroad was hand-carried in an ice-packed tea thermos aboard a flight to Singapore. Since then, 60,000 corneas have been donated.

While the Society's eye bank was a pioneer, questions about quality emerged as international eye banking standards improved over the next 20 to 30 years. Concerns have recently been raised about less advanced screening for HIV and other diseases, and the eye bank has also faced allegations of mismanagement.

Many of its corneas are harvested from the homes of the dead in rural areas across the country, making auditing and quality assurance levels harder to maintain, said Dr. Donald Tan, medical director of Singapore National Eye Center, who helped set up the new eye bank. Once, he said, a blade of grass was found packaged with tissue requested for research.

Eye Donation Society manager Janath Matara Arachchi says the organization sends "only the good and healthy eyes" and has not received a complaint in 20 years. Arachchi said the organization checks for HIV, hepatitis and other sexually transmitted diseases by dipping a strip into blood samples and waiting to see if it changes color for a positive result. Sri Lanka's Health Ministry also said it has received no complaints about the eye bank from other countries.

Medical director Dr. M.H.S. Cassim denied that anyone from the organization is making money off donations sent abroad. He said they charge up to $450 per cornea to cover operational costs and the high price of preservatives needed to store the tissue.

The cornea is the dome-shaped transparent part of the eye that covers the iris and pupil. It helps to focus entering light, but can become cloudy from disease or other damage. Corneas must be carefully extracted from donors to avoid damaging the thin layer of cells on the back that pump water away to keep it clear. They must be harvested within eight hours of death, and can today be preserved and stored in refrigeration for up to 14 days.

> *Sri Lanka has long been known to be a country with an incredible heart for eye donation and a willingness to share surplus corneas to restore sight around the world.*

Sri Lanka has no official organ donation registry, as is provided in some countries when driver's licenses are issued. Instead, the idea is passed down from generation to generation. Eye donation campaigns are organized at temples by Buddhist monks, but people of other faiths also give, including Hindus and Christians.

Future donors simply mail in the bottom half of a consent form distributed by Silva's Eye Donation Society. The top portion, which looks like an award certificate with a fancy scroll lacing around it, is also filled out and often proudly displayed on the wall—serving as proof to the living that the pledge comes from a generous spirit.

"Just think if we had that level of organ donation and commitment and belief system in the United States, where we have these long lists of people waiting for hearts, livers and kidneys," said Dr. Alfred Sommer of Johns Hopkins University, who spent more than 40 years fighting blindness in the developing world. "If we had that level of cultural investment, there would be no lists for organ transplants."

The U.S. is the world's biggest cornea provider, sending more than 16,000 corneas to other countries in 2010, according to the Eye Bank Association of America. But Sri Lanka, which is 15 times smaller, actually donates about triple that number of corneas per capita each year.

There is no waiting list for eye tissue in Sri Lanka, and its people get first access to free corneas. About 40,000 have been transplanted locally since the beginning, but that still leaves a surplus each year.

Pakistan, an Islamic country where followers are typically required to be buried with all parts intact, has received some 20,000 corneas since overseas donations began, Cassim said. Egypt and Japan are two other major recipients, receiving 8,000 and 6,000 corneas respectively to date, he said.

But Sri Lanka cannot meet global demand on its own. An estimated 10 million people—9 out of 10 in poor countries—suffer worldwide from corneal blindness that could be helped by a transplant if tissue and trained surgeons were available, according to U.S.-based SightLife, an eye bank that partners with developing countries. It has been working with Sri Lanka's new government facility.

"Sri Lanka has long been known to be a country with an incredible heart for eye donation and a willingness to share surplus corneas to restore sight around the world," said SightLife president Monty Montoya. "While efforts have been made to share information with other countries, I am not aware of any one location being able to replicate Sri Lanka's success."

Where possible, eye tissue should be transplanted within hours of death. That was done in the Colombo operating room where patients Siriwardana and Premathilake were stitched up with what looked like tiny fishing hooks, then bandaged and helped outside.

For Premathilake—whose sight was lost when an open can of acid spilled onto his face while working at a rubber factory—this is his last hope. His right eye still blinks, but there is nothing but an empty pink cavity inside. The stem cells attached to his left eye should help create a new window of sight that he hopes will allow him to go back to work, or at least carry out daily tasks without depending on his parents.

"I am extremely happy," he said. "I didn't know the man who died in his previous life, but I'm always going to say blessings for him during his next births."

Associated Press writer Bharatha Mallawarachi contributed to this report from Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Campus Life

KagHS JROTC does well in drill competition

Kagman High School cadets undergo Armed Inspection.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Battalion commander c/Lt. Col. Keisha Manglona and Drill Team Commander c/Capt. Anjannete Narvaez hold the first place Armed Inspection Drill and second place overall trophies.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

- **Bags one of four 1st place trophies**
- **Garners 2nd place overall**

The atmosphere was electric at the CNMI Regional Drill Eliminations that took place at Marianas High School between MHS, Kagman High School, and Saipan Southern High School on Jan. 14, 2012. This event was intended to select the team that will go to Los Angeles, California, for the 8th Brigade Regional Competition.

Saipan Southern High's Manta Ray Battalion emerged as the overall winner in the competition, taking home three of the four drill honors: the Color Guard, Armed Drill, and Fancy Armed Exhibition.

Kagman High School took first place in the Armed Drill Inspection and placed second overall, with MHS placing third overall.

Armed Inspection consists of a 13-member Rifle Drill Team that gets inspected by the four judges who check each cadet for appearance, general knowledge in military subjects and current events. Each cadet must execute inspection arms so the grader can look over his or her rifle for cleanliness.

The competition was fierce; all teams looked great and performed at their peak. It was a sight to see, with breathtaking moves from the rifle exhibition drill teams that thrilled the onlookers and the discipline that was displayed by the cadets in all areas was impressive.

Special thanks go to the Multiple School Unit Headquarters who hosted this event: Director of Army Instruction LTC Gay, SFC Damian, Joe Sablan, and Phillip Quitugua.

Congratulation to the SSHS JROTC Armed Team, which will represent the CNMI at the Regional Drill Meet. They will be accompanied by the Rota and Tinian Unarmed Drill Team. ***(PR)***

GCA's January forensic winners

The Grace Christian Academy family (administration, faculty and staff, parents, and student body) congratulates their January forensic winners in all levels: Primary Grades Forensic Conference for kindergarten to 2nd grade and 3rd -5th grades), National Junior Forensic League for 6th-8th grades, and National Forensic League for 9th-12th grades. Well done and congratulations on your success. Below is the list of all the winners.

PRIMARY GRADES FORENSIC CONFERENCE
K-5TH GRADE
PGFC Coordinator: Esther Manzano

K-2 Division
Dramatic Interpretation A
Steven Adriatico, 4th place
Lyssa Steele, 3rd place

Dramatic Interpretation B
Juruel Magtalas, 1st place
Julianna Magtalas, 2nd place
Eunice Pagaduan, 3rd place

Humorous Interpretation B
Akira Daniel Ota, 3rd place

Impromptu Speaking A
Makena Carrasco, 2nd place
Clerisse Dacumos, 3rd place
Matthew Gabriel Ernest, 4th place

Impromptu Speaking B
Briston James Jones, 1st place
Chelsea Henson, 2nd place
Katelyn Mafnas, 4th place
Alana Carrasco, 5th place

Impromptu Speaking C
Cristina Kim, 3rd place
Alex Christian Achas, 4th place
Timothy Neal, 5th place

Readers Forum A
Mikaelah Owens, 2nd place

Readers Forum Masters A
Clerisse Dacumos, 4th place
Brandie Matsumoto, 5th place

Readers Forum Masters B
Alex Christian Achas, 3rd place

Readers Forum Masters C
Matthew Gabriel Ernest, 4th place

Choral Speaking A
Timothy Neal, 5th place
Kaydence Sasaki, 5th place
Briston James Jones, 5th place
Eunice Pagaduan, 5th place
Chelsea Henson, 5th place

3-5 Division
Duo Interpretation A
Tae Yong Kim, 1st place
Jabez Victoria, 1st place

Duo Interpretation B
Riley Anne Buenaventura, 2nd place
Esther Kim, 2nd place

Humorous Interpretation A
Robert Hanrey Schorr, 2nd place

Humorous Interpretation B
Andrei Yue, 4th place

Readers Forum B
Patrick Aldan, 2nd place

Readers Forum Masters A
Jim Michael Ham, 1st place
Jaiden Sabugo, 4th place

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Grace Christian Academy's NJFL/NFL winners have their picture taken inside the GCA campus.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Grace Christian Academy's PGFC winners have their picture taken inside the GCA campus.

Readers Forum Masters B
Matt Jason Moran, 2nd place
Esther Kim, 4th place

Readers Forum Masters D
Lanz Jabez Victoria, 1st place
Robert Hanrey Schorr, 2nd place
Riley Anne Buenaventura, 5th place

Impromptu Speaking A
Tae Yong Kim, 1st place
Martin Pangilinan, 4th place

Impromptu Speaking B
Jim Michael Ham, 1st place
Arvin Dayao, 2nd place
Matt Jason Moran, 3rd place

Choral Speaking A
Anna Nunez, 4th place
Jaiden Sabugo, 4th place
Jessa May Santos, 4th place

NATIONAL JUNIOR FORENSIC LEAGUE
6TH-8TH GRADE
NJFL Coordinator: Ami Joy Danganan

Duo Interpretation A
Rebekah Kim, 1st place
Jasmine Gortayo, 1st place

Impromptu Speech A
Dianne Arnold, 1st place

Impromptu Speech B
Francis Joseph Dalusung, 1st place
Camille Masilungan, 3rd place

Poetry Reading Masters B
Camille Masilungan, 4th place

Poetry Reading Masters C
Rebekah Kim, 1st place
Jimaela Ham, 2nd place

Prose Reading Masters A
Allexa Go, 5th place

Prose Reading Masters C
Asako Camacho, 3rd place
Franchesca Dalusung, 4th place

NATIONAL FORENSIC LEAGUE
9TH-12TH GRADE
NFL Coordinator: Josh Zwicker

DUO Interpretation A
Terence Ho, 3rd place
Jenica Smithee, 3rd place

Original Oratory A
Jimaela Ham, 1st place
Angela Mamaril, 2nd place

Impromptu Speech A
Angela Mamaril, 1st place

Impromptu Speech B
Terence Ho, 2nd place

Prose Reading Masters B
Jenica Smithee, 1st place
Jimaela Ham, 2nd place

U.S. Extemporaneous Speech
Yong Koo Kim, 1st place

Commentary
Yong Koo Kim, 1st place

Life & Style

Sam Worthington goes out on a limb for latest role

By ROGER MOORE
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ORLANDO, Fla.—Even in his post-"Avatar," post-"Clash of the Titans" stardom, Sam Worthington remembers what it was like to put it all down on one throw of the dice, to gamble everything on that main chance. He remembers what it was like to unload his possessions, sell everything, buy a car and live in it until he landed a big break.

"I was living in a beat-up old Toyota Corona," he says. "Mate, it was held together by rope. Spent my last cash—$4,000—on that, and it barely drove. So I had to live in it. Get some of my money's worth, right? It had curtains. Why not?"

He was living on nothing, just clinging to the belief that he'd land a break. He wasn't that unlike Nick Cassidy, the character he plays in his new film, "Man on a Ledge"—a fellow at the end of his tether, taking one shot at redemption by stepping out onto the ledge of a New York hotel, drawing attention to his plight even as he schemes to use that attention to mastermind a robbery that will clear his name.

"Nick Cassidy is looking for Mercer (Elizabeth Banks) to be that one person who believes in him. And any actor can identify with that; you're looking for that one person in the business who believes in you, who gives you a big break. Jim Cameron believed in me and that was all it took—my lucky break."

Worthington, a rising star in his native Australia, got his Hollywood big break when he was cast in the James Cameron-produced and -directed "Avatar" in 2009, which led to him being cast in the franchise Cameron started—"Terminator Salvation." He could afford to move out of the car.

"I've moved up, a bit. Bought an American car—a Chevy Avalanche, something big, obnoxious and amazingly tough. Sends a statement, right?"

Yes, it does, a statement that's in line with much of Worthington's big-screen work. The movies have always needed actors able to play larger than life—from John Wayne to Charlton Heston to Bruce Willis, men of action who could stand in front of something epic and not have the movie swallow them whole. Worthington is filling that bill today.

He's making "Avatar" sequels. He's in "Wrath of the Titans" in March, another 3-D spectacle set in Greek mythology. It's no wonder that The Village Voice's Nick Pinkerton nicknamed him "Sam 'Mr. Greenscreen' Worthington," after the effects background Worthington does most of his acting in front of.

"I never get offered romantic roles, mate," he says, mocking his image. "I was griping about that to my agent the other day. 'Show me the romances, the musicals.' I thought it was the haircut (he's often crew-cut on the screen). But I've got a mullet in "Man on a Ledge," just to change things up. Still no romance offers. Didn't work out."

"Mr. Greenscreen" is getting some chances to mix it up. He co-starred in the romantic drama "Last Night" with Keira Knightley, and stood out in a formidable ensemble in the complex Nazi-hunting thriller "The Debt," which opened to great reviews last summer.

Sam Worthington stars in "Man on a Ledge." MCT

"I just pick movies that I'd pay to go and see. Whether they're $200 million spectacles, or this little $10 million movie ("Drift," about the birth of modern surfing) I just finished in Australia. As long as the story interests me and I think other people would be interested in seeing it, I sign on."

And since he'd loved "The Negotiator" and "Phone Booth," films involving life and death haggling and bargaining between two principal characters in crisis, he grabbed "Man on a Ledge."

"It's another variation on that stand-off negotiation sort of tale. Very simple premise—a man standing on a ledge, desperately trying to proclaim his innocence, making this stand he's taken his Alamo. His do or die moment. Stepping into the persona of a guy like that fascinated me and felt like my sort of acting adventure."

At 35, the native Brit who grew up in Australia is at a point where he's got "more weight to me," more clout, which means he may yet get a shot at another acting adventure he'd like to make, about Australia's biggest battle in the Vietnam War—The Battle of Long Tan. "Narrated a documentary on that, years ago," Worthington says. "We were going to make it with (Australian director) Bruce Beresford, but it got held up—fell through. Maybe someday."

He'll have to make do with "Thunder Run," an Iraq War thriller based on a true story of the capture of Baghdad by U.S. forces, a film that will co-star Gerard Butler. And there are those "Avatar" sequels to get to.

"I went through a bit of that 'My time is no longer my own' thing. But you come through the other side of that if you're smart. You realize that you're a very lucky man to be able to do this job. I've got to be a bit harder on myself. My job only exists if I keep making movies that audiences want to see. The pressure I put on myself is to do just that."

Gantos' 'Dead End in Norvelt' wins Newbery Medal

NEW YORK (AP)—This year's winners of the top prizes in children's literature were honored for stories of resilience over the most everyday troubles: a boy grounded by his parents, a dog that loses its favorite toy.

Jack Gantos' "Dead End in Norvelt" won the John Newbery Medal for the best children's book of 2011, and Chris Raschka's "A Ball for Daisy" won the Randolph Caldecott award for best illustration. The prizes were announced Monday by the American Library Association during its midwinter meeting in Dallas.

No cash prizes are given, but the awards are watched closely by booksellers and librarians and often lead to increased sales and a lasting place on a school or store bookshelf. Previous winners include such favorites as Louis Sachar's "Holes" and Brian Selznick's "The Invention of Hugo Cabret," the basis for Martin Scorsese's film "Hugo."

Within hours of the prizes' announcement, "Dead End in Norvelt" and "A Ball for Daisy" were both in the top 50 on Amazon.com and both out of stock.

Gantos and Raschla are well established in children's publishing. Gantos, 60, has been a finalist for the Newbery and the National Book Award. Raschka, 52, won the Caldecott in 2006 for "The Hello, Goodbye Window."

Gantos' novel follows the humorous adventures of a boy named Jack Gantos, grounded "for life" by his parents and prone to the most gushing nosebleeds. But he is restored by the stories he learns about his hometown, Norvelt, a planned community in Pennsylvania founded during the Great Depression.

The author is more than a little like the Jack Gantos of his book. He spent part of his childhood in Norvelt and shares his character's sensitive nose. Gantos said he thought of "Dead End" after giving a eulogy for his aunt that looked back on Norvelt's special past.

"I talked about the spirit of people helping people, and how people really banded together," Gantos said during a telephone interview from his home in Boston. "And at the end of my eulogy, a lot of people came up to me and said they didn't know about the history of Norvelt. I love history, and I love humor, so I thought history could use a little humor."

Raschka's wordless picture book, told through watercolor, ink and gouache, recounts the saga of a white and gray terrier whose beloved red ball is stolen by a bigger, brown poodle. The ball bursts and Daisy's spirit seems to break with it, until the poodle returns with a blue ball that leaves the pets and their owners equally content.

Raschka said "Daisy" was inspired by his son, who at age 4 was devastated when his yellow ball broke during a scrape with a neighbor. The author said he began thinking of "those first feelings of losing something beloved" and knowing you can't get it back. For the story, he changed the main character from a boy to a dog.

"When you're a picture book illustrator, your readers are often 3 or 4 years old, and you don't want the drawing to be upsetting in itself," Raschka said during a phone interview from the offices of Schwartz & Wade Books, an imprint of Random House Inc. "By having an animal, there's some distance, and yet there is still a connection."

Other winners were announced Monday, including John Corey Whaley's "Where Things Come Back," which received the Michael L. Printz Award for best young adult literature; and Kadir Nelson's "Heart and Soul," winner of the Coretta Scott King Book Award for best African-American story. The King prize for best illustrated book was given to Shane W. Evans' "Underground: Finding the Light to Freedom."

Jesmyn Ward's "Salvage the Bones," winner last fall of the National Book Award for fiction, was among 10 recipients of the Alex Award for adult books that appeal to teens. Others cited included Erin Morgenstern's acclaimed debut "The Night Circus" and David Levithan's "The Lover's Dictionary." Bill Wright's "Putting Makeup on the Fat Boy" received the Stonewall award for "exceptional merit relating to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender experience."

The Pura Belpre award for best Latino author went to Guadalupe Garcia McCall for "Under the Mesquite," while the Belpre illustration prize was given to Duncan Tonatiuh for "Diego Rivera: His World and Ours." Translator Laura Wilkerson's work on Bibi Dumon Tak's "Soldier Bear," originally published in Dutch in 2008, won her the Mildred L. Batchelder Award for best book translated from a foreign language.

Susan Cooper, known for her fantasy series "The Dark is Rising," won the Margaret A. Edwards award for lifetime achievement in young adult literature.

Disney will allow park workers to have beards

ORLANDO, Florida (AP)—Workers at Disney's theme parks will be allowed to grow beards and goatees for the first time ever.

A Disney spokeswoman said Monday that the new policy will apply to workers in Florida and California starting next month.

Disney had prohibited all facial hair on its theme park workers since Disneyland opened in California in the mid-1950s. The company revised its policy in 2000 to allow mustaches, provided they were grown on vacation and not at work.

Starting Feb. 3, beards, mustaches and other facial growth will be allowed.

Disney periodically reassesses its grooming requirements. The Disney spokeswoman says officials decided now was a good time to revise the hair policy.

The policy change also allows workers in areas without visitor contact to have casual Fridays.

Jackson's 'Hobbit' doubles film speed to 48 frames

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Peter Jackson is making his hobbits and dwarves march double-time in his "The Lord of the Rings" prequel, which he's shooting in a faster film speed than the Hollywood standard.

Jackson hopes the 48-frames-a-second rate—twice the 24 frames that has been the custom since the 1920s—will help bring about a transition to faster speeds that can bring more lifelike images and action to the screen.

Digital cameras allow for shooting at 48 frames or faster, reducing the blurry effect known as strobing that can come with 24-frame filming.

Jackson said he hopes there will be a fair number of theaters equipped with digital projectors that can handle the faster film speeds by December, when Warner Bros. will release "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," the first chapter in his two-part adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy classic.

"You shoot at 48, project at 48 and you get an illusion of life that's remarkable. You don't realize just how strobing and how flickery 24 frames is," Jackson said at the Sundance Film Festival, where he presented the documentary "West of Memphis," produced by him and his wife, "Hobbit" co-writer Fran Walsh. "You look at something at 48 frames, and it looks gorgeous. It looks like real life. It's amazing."

Jackson

Other digital pioneers are making the same push for higher film speeds. "Avatar" creator James Cameron has said he will shoot the sequel to his science-fiction blockbuster at 48 or 60 frames a second.

At the CinemaCon convention for theater owners in Las Vegas last March, Cameron showed footage he shot at 24, 48 and 60 frames a second. The faster speeds noticeably reduced or eliminated blurriness in action sequences or when the camera panned and dollied down the length of a crowded banquet table.

As Hollywood moved into the digital age, movie makers generally have stuck with the 24-frame speed at which celluloid film moves through cameras and projectors. "The Hobbit" will show that it's an outdated way to shoot films, Jackson said.

"I'm hoping it'll be just the first gentle step into changing film rates because we can change them, especially with all the digital technology now," Jackson said. "Twenty-four is irrelevant. It doesn't mean anything anymore. It's just a traditional thing. It's far from the best visual way to present a film."

"The Hobbit" has had a hard road to the screen after Jackson's blockbuster "Lord of the Rings" trilogy," whose 2003 finale, "The Return of the King," swept the Academy Awards with 11 trophies, including best picture and director.

Jackson planned only to co-write and co-produce "The Hobbit," but he stepped in to direct after Guillermo del Toro dropped out because of delays caused by the bankruptcy of MGM, which owned half of the project.

"It's actually been a reasonably joyous thing to do," said Walsh, who returned as a co-writer and co-producer. "I'm surprised to say that because I thought it would be very hard. Certainly, it was a difficult birth of this film. It was protracted and fought. ... But it's surprisingly pleasant, if I can use that word. Pleasant. So far. So I hope I haven't jinxed it."

The two films are being shot simultaneously in 3-D, with the second one, "The Hobbit: There and Back Again," due in theaters in December 2013.

British actor Martin Freeman stars as Bilbo Baggins, the hobbit who acquires the evil ring that sets the action of "The Lord of the Rings" in motion. Cast members returning from that trilogy include Ian McKellen, Elijah Wood, Cate Blanchett, Orlando Bloom, Ian Holm, Christopher Lee, Hugo Weaving and Andy Serkis.

Jackson said he's having a great time revisiting Tolkien's Middle-earth.

"If I show up at work every day happy to be there and excited about what we're shooting, to me, that's always a good sign," he said. "So I think we're making a couple of pretty entertaining movies."

Jack isn't back in new Keifer Sutherland series 'Touch'

FOX/MCT

Martin (Kiefer Sutherland, left) tries to understand his son Jake (David Mazouz) in "Touch," which debuts with a special preview Wednesday, January 25 (9:00-10:07 PM ET/PT) and then makes its series premiere Monday, March 19 (9pm - 10pm ET/PT) on FOX.

By RICK BENTLEY
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

PASADENA, Calif.—For eight seasons, Kiefer Sutherland played television's baddest asset—Jack Bauer—on "24." He returns to the network this week in "Touch," playing the father of an 11-year-old boy who has the ability to see patterns in nature, time and people.

The role is far more cerebral than his "24" work.

Eight years of being the central focus of an action TV series can take its toll. Sutherland tried to get as far away from Bauer as possible by appearing in "That Championship Season" on Broadway.

"I really wanted to set some time apart from this kind of amazing experience that I had with '24' and try some different things," Sutherland says.

He had no plans to return to TV when he got the "Touch" script.

"The character was so vastly different, and the tone of the piece was so vastly different, that that was part of its appeal. I had to reread it a second time to make sure that all of the emotional components that I was reacting to so strongly were actually integral to me as opposed to this perspective that I was trying to create or navigate from '24.' I realized that if they would have me, this was certainly something I wanted to do."

Just to be clear, it wasn't Jack Bauer that Sutherland was trying to escape. It was the long hours and action scenes—where his character was tortured and beaten more than a hallway rug—that he wanted to leave behind.

The only thing that will get twisted and turned while doing "Touch" is Sutherland's brain.

Series creator Tim Kring is very interested in interconnectivity, a concept that suggests everything in life is inextricably connected. That concept was used in both of his last works, "Heroes" and "The Conspiracy For Good."

With "Touch," Kring is doing what he calls social benefit storytelling.

"The idea of trying to use archetypal narrative to create and promote a positive energy in the world," Kring says. "We are more connected to one another than we ever thought or knew. And I think it's being borne out by the whole social networking world that we live in, and it feels like we are we need to figure that out in order to solve the bigger problems that we all face."

It's certainly the task at hand for Sutherland's character. He's a father who has become frustrated by the inability to connect with his son. It's not until he realizes the pages of mathematical equations the youngster has been writing have a meaning.

This means Sutherland's character has save the world on a weekly basis. He sees the role differently.

"The real driving force for my character is to really just simply communicate with his son. He wants to have as normal a relationship as he possibly can with his son, which I think every parent can relate to," Sutherland says. "The rest of the stuff is really for the audience to kind of experience in how one thing can interconnect or affect another."

He does point to one similarity between "24" and "Touch."

"The one parallel that I can actually bring from the two characters is that Jack Bauer was asked to save the day, and there were always going to be casualties. So it was never going to be a perfect win. And Martin Bohm, my character in 'Touch,' is never going to have the perfect, idyllic relationship with his son, and so there is a circumstance, a kind of weight on both characters where they just will never completely win."

Actress Keke Palmer grows up with movie 'Joyful Noise'

NEW YORK (AP)—Keke Palmer became a star with her Nickelodeon show "True Jackson, VP" which aired for three seasons and made her one of the highest paid child actors on television. Instead of sticking with the show though she decided it was a good time to end it around her 18th birthday last August.

"I was approaching 18 and it's just like I don't want to be a grown woman on the show," said Palmer in a recent interview. "I want my fans to grow with me, I don't want to stay stagnant and that's what it pretty much came down to. You know I'm growing up and I wanted to grow with my audience. Not for them to watch me and I'm left behind and just a memory from their childhood."

Palmer shows she's growing up with the film "Joyful Noise" starring Queen Latifah and Dolly Parton. It's about a small-town church choir that faces being shut down by budget cuts.

She plays Latifah's teenage daughter Olivia, who falls for Dolly Parton's character's grandson, played by Jeremy Jordan.

In the film, Palmer has her first make out scene, which she admits made her nervous.

"It's not some Nickelodeon or Disney channel (romance) it's like the real deal," said Palmer about kissing Jordan. "The kissing scene I would say was the scariest thing for me."

She joked about how she had to tell her dad to leave the room during filming.

"I'm like, 'Dad, doesn't this freak you out too, watching me do an on screen make out?'" she laughed.

"Joyful Noise" is now in theaters. It currently ranks No. 7 at the box office. The album's soundtrack also is No. 7 on the iTunes charts.

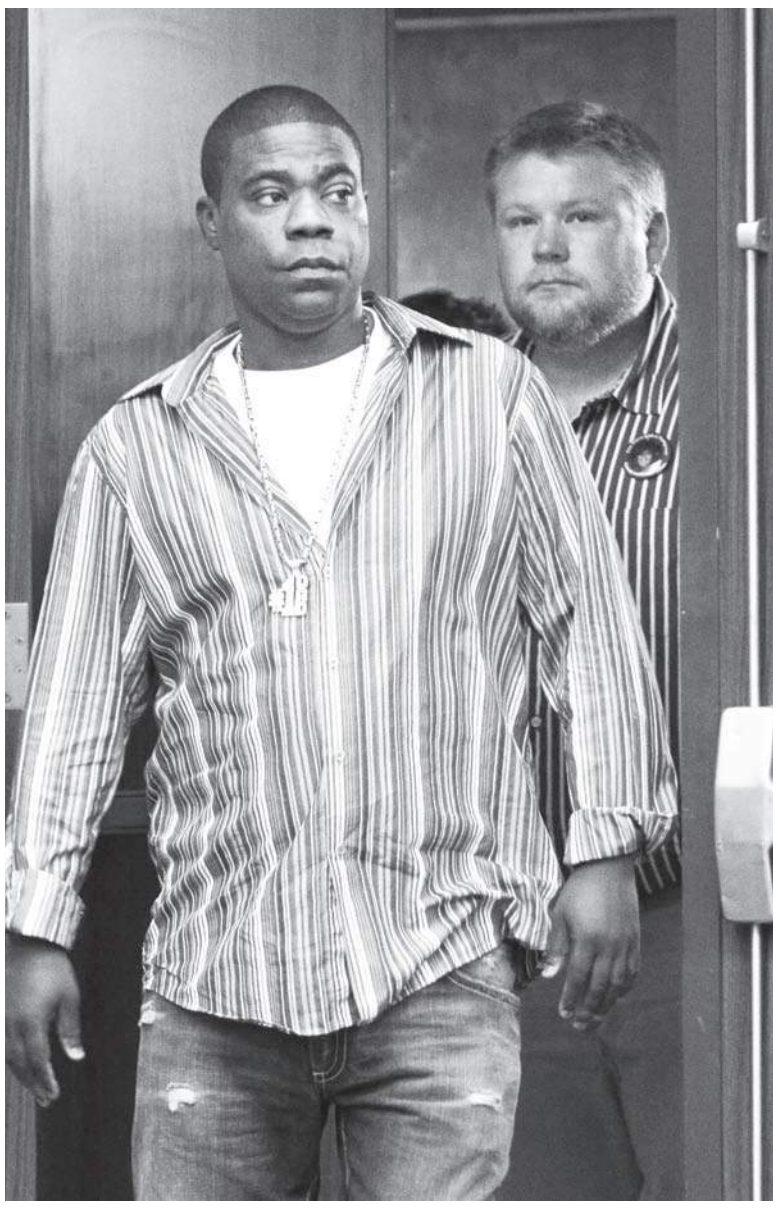
Palmer said she wants to continue showcasing her singing, acting and maybe host a talk show one day.

"Someday I would really love to do a talk show. That's something I've always been interested in. I like to talk, and I love to help people."

AP

In this Jan. 13, 2012 photo, actress Keke Palmer poses for a portrait in New York.

Tracy Morgan of '30 Rock' out of Utah hospital



AP

In this June 21, 2011 file photo, comedian and actor Tracy Morgan arrives at a news conference with Kevin Rogers, right, in Nashville, Tenn.

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Comedian and "30 Rock" cast member Tracy Morgan has been released from a hospital after collapsing during the Sundance Film Festival, and he says he'll be back at work Tuesday.

Morgan's publicist, Lewis Kay, confirmed Monday that the actor left the Park City Medical Center after he suffered from exhaustion and altitude Sunday night in Park City, where the elevation is 7,000 feet.

Morgan posted a comment Monday on Twitter that the high altitude "shook up this kid from Brooklyn."

"Superman ran into a little kryptonite," he quipped. He also said on Twitter that he would be back to work Tuesday on "30 Rock."

Ron Nyswaner, co-director of the Sundance film "Predisposed," in which the actor stars, said Morgan's collapse resulted from "altitude sickness combined with his diabetes. And he hadn't eaten. He hadn't had enough water."

Kay said hospital officials report no drugs or alcohol were found in Morgan's system.

Morgan had been attending an event for the Creative Coalition at which he had just received an award.

In "Predisposed," which stars Jesse Eisenberg and Melissa Leo, Morgan plays a drug dealer caught up in the push-and-pull between a piano prodigy and his troubled mother.

Jason Segel is Harvard Hasty Pudding Man of the Year

Segel

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Actor Jason Segel can add a Hasty Pudding pot award to his career highlights.

Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals on Monday named Segel its Man of Year.

The student group is the nation's oldest undergraduate drama troupe. It'll host a parade and roast for Segel on Feb. 3.

Segel got his start in the short-lived but critically acclaimed television series "Freaks and Geeks."

He later wrote and starred in the 2008 movie "Forgetting Sarah Marshall," which earned more than $100 million worldwide. And he co-wrote and starred in last year's "The Muppets."

He plays Marshall Eriksen on the CBS comedy "How I Met Your Mother."

Last year, Jay Leno won the Hasty Pudding award, which recognizes outstanding entertainers.

Actress Claire Danes has been named this year's Woman of the Year.

Tim and Eric drop a 'Billion' at Sundance

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Tim Heidecker and Eric Wareheim are guilty of a bit of exaggeration with the title of their Sundance Film Festival premiere.

In "Tim and Eric's Billion Dollar Movie," the writer-directors play filmmakers who squander the biggest movie budget ever on helicopter rides to work, a personal guru and other extravagances.

In truth, their own expenses were in line with the low budgets Sundance filmmakers typically have.

Heidecker joked that their movie cost about as much as the budget for one of the gifting suites that pop up around Sundance for stars to stop by and collect free swag.

"Billion Dollar Movie" marks the directing debut for Heidecker and Wareheim. They're the comedy team behind TV's "Tim and Eric Awesome Show, Great Job!"

Aretha Franklin calls off her wedding

NEW YORK (AP)—Aretha Franklin won't be getting fitted for a wedding gown after all: She's called off her engagement.

In a statement released Monday, her representative said her wedding to Willie Wilkerson wasn't going to happen.

Franklin said things were moving too fast and "a number of things" had not been thought through.

She says she won't be commenting about it because of "the very personal and sensitive nature of it."

It's not clear if they are still a couple.

Franklin announced shortly after New Year's Day that she was getting married, and said she planned a wedding in either the Hamptons or Miami.

AP

In this May 17, 2011 file photo, singer Aretha Franklin appears at a taping of "Surprise Oprah! A Farewell Spectacular," in Chicago.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

'Citizen Kane' to be shown at Hearst Castle

SAN SIMEON, California (AP)—The 1941 film "Citizen Kane" will be shown at Hearst Castle, the elaborate California estate built by the newspaper magnate who inspired Orson Welles' cinema classic. The Los Angeles Times says "Citizen Kane" will be shown March 9 at the visitor center theater as part of the San Luis Obispo International Film Festival, with the blessing of the late William Randolph Hearst's family. Hearst sought to derail the movie, which portrayed the rise and fall of an obsessively controlling character, and festival director Wendy Eidson says it has probably never been seen at the estate, which is now a state park. Great-grandson Steve Hearst says it will be presented as a work of fiction rather than as a documentary about the media tycoon.

Spike Lee frustrated by lack of diversity in film

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Spike Lee just premiered the fifth film in his "continuing chronicles of Brooklyn, N.Y.," at the Sundance Film Festival, but the filmmaker is still frustrated at the lack of diversity in the entertainment industry. Lee said Monday that in the "upper echelons of television and studios, it's 1950. It's Eisenhower." He says there is much work to be done before the film industry reflects the diversity of the United States. He noted that the U.S. Census shows that "white Americans will be a minority by 2045, maybe sooner," and said it makes "good business sense" for companies, including entertainment companies, to diversify their workforce. Lee unveiled "Red Hook Summer" on Sunday to a full house that included such guests as Chris Rock, Alfre Woodard and Cuba Gooding Jr.

College-bound senior doesn't measure up in parents' eyes

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm 18 years old. I play two competitive sports, maintain a 4.0 GPA, have good friends and will be attending the college of my dreams. Yet for some reason I cannot get along with my parents.

It seems like I can't live up to their standards. We get into huge fights every day over insignificant things. My parents continually tell me they don't think I will handle college very well because I "can't get along with people." But their lack of faith just frustrates me and we get into more fights.

In reality, the only people I don't get along with are my parents. This is unsettling to me because next fall I will be across the country from them and I feel they will be happy that I'm gone. I'm at a loss as to what to do to control my temper and fix my relationship with my parents before I leave. Your advice would be appreciated.

CLIMBING THE WALLS
IN CLEVELAND

DEAR CLIMBING THE WALLS: It's possible that your parents may be suffering from separation anxiety. You, their child, are about to leave the nest, and they may be dealing with conflicting feelings of pride in your accomplishments and sadness that you are about to fly from the nest. It may not be a lack of faith in you. Also, they may be having second thoughts about how they can afford the tuition and other college expenses beyond possible financial aid.

Whatever their reasons are, you need some tools to help you stay calm and not fly off the handle when your buttons are pushed—regardless of who is pressing them. In my booklet, "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It," I offer suggestions that will help you gain control of your emotions so that you will lose your temper less often. It can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address, plus a check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds), to Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. Anger is a normal emotion. There are probably no human beings who don't experience anger at one time or another. However, it's important that you learn some techniques to handle your emotional reactions more constructively than you have been. Not only will these techniques help you with your parents now, but also they will help you when you're away at college adjusting to new people and new situations.

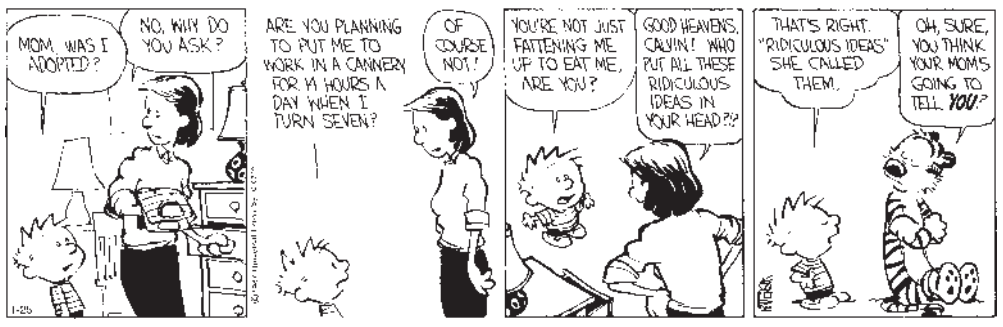
Remember, the average person may become irritated, angry or frustrated several times a day. The key is to deal with these emotions effectively. Talk to your parents about your feelings and explore what's going on. By focusing on what is triggering your negative emotions instead of reacting with an outburst, you can not only defuse your anger but also retain your dignity, and possibly achieve a more informed understanding of how your parents may really feel. I hope that the outcome will be a rapprochement with your parents.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

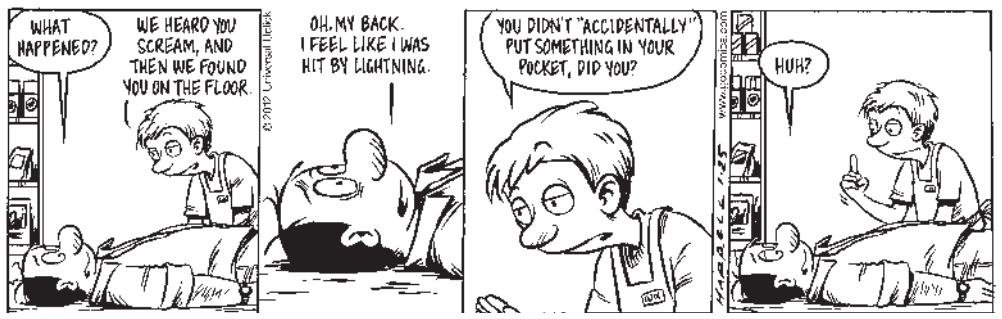

MOM, WAS I ADOPTED?
NO, WHY DO YOU ASK?
ARE YOU PLANNING TO PUT ME TO WORK IN A CANNERY FOR 14 HOURS A DAY WHEN I TURN SEVEN?
OF COURSE NOT!
YOU'RE NOT JUST FATTENING ME UP TO EAT ME, ARE YOU?
GOOD HEAVENS, CALVIN! WHO PUT ALL THESE RIDICULOUS IDEAS IN YOUR HEAD?!?
THAT'S RIGHT. "RIDICULOUS IDEAS" SHE CALLED THEM.
OH, SURE, YOU THINK YOUR MOM'S GOING TO TELL YOU?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT HAPPENED?
WE HEARD YOU SCREAM, AND THEN WE FOUND YOU ON THE FLOOR.
OH. MY BACK. I FEEL LIKE I WAS HIT BY LIGHTNING.
YOU DIDN'T "ACCIDENTALLY" PUT SOMETHING IN YOUR POCKET, DID YOU?
HUH?
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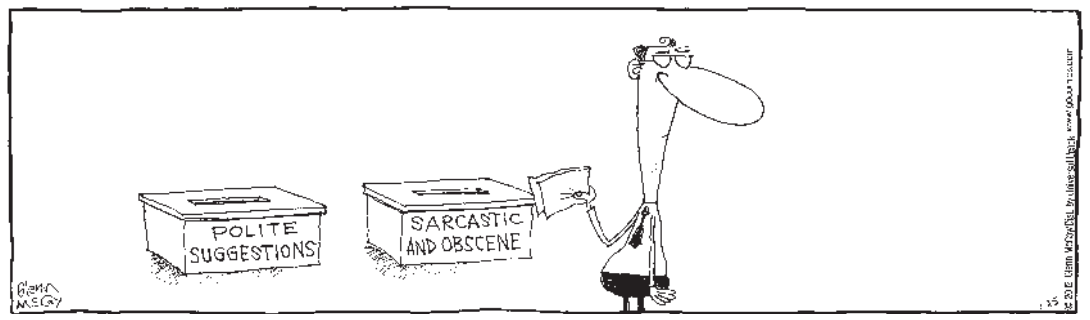
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

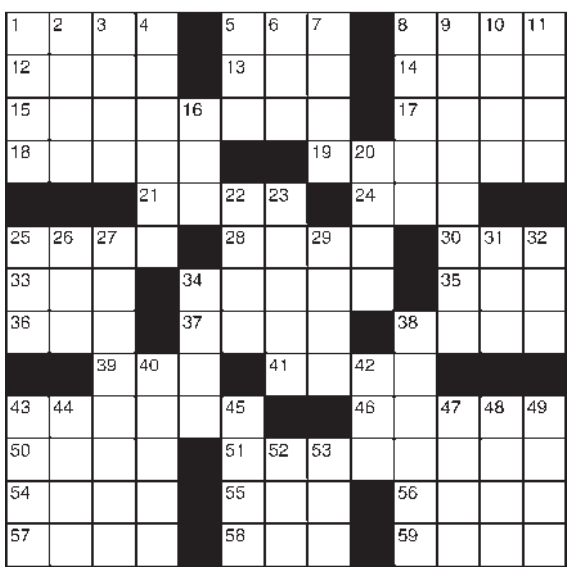
ACROSS
1 Protected
5 Transgression
8 Agile
12 Yoked team
13 Japanese pond carp
14 Hint
15 Making a vow
17 Luau dance
18 Excited
19 Carpentry tool
21 Campus mil. org.
24 Tennis stroke
25 Easy gait
28 Landlord's due
30 A Gershwin brother
33 Piercing tool
34 YouTube upload
35 Sister
36 1980s-90s Chevy subdivision
37 Top
38 Old
39 Bronze
41 Slow-cooker recipe
43 Photo finishes
46 Shortwave or CB
50 Eye part
51 Recent fad requiring one to lie stiff
54 Baseball team
55 Have a bug
56 Satanic
57 Lady —
58 Ball prop
59 Archibald of NBA lore

DOWN
1 Former frosh
2 Wheelbase terminus
3 Yard trio
4 Last
5 Tackle moguls
6 Charged bit
7 In the offing
8 Jerk
9 Pipes and such
10 Legislate
11 Calendar quota
16 Mailing HQ
20 Choir member
22 Stumble
23 Relinquishes
25 Trail behind
26 Have bills
27 Cabal's work
29 Adjoining
31 Regret
32 Moreover
34 Barn roof adornment
38 Stir
40 Bewildered
42 Coastal eagle
43 Chinese dynasty
44 Met melody
45 Quarrel
47 44-Down singer
48 First ltr.
49 Look longingly
52 Big fib
53 Hearty brew

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	P	E	X	■	A	H	A	■	U	R	S	A
L	A	M	A	■	V	O	L	■	N	E	O	N
P	I	U	N	D	F	R	S	■	K	N	O	T
■	■	■	A	I	R	■	O	N	I	O	N	S
A	B	O	D	E	■	G	R	I	N	■	■	■
L	U	L	U	■	F	L	A	N	D	E	R	S
A	L	G	■	I	L	O	N	A	■	D	U	H
S	L	A	N	D	E	R	S	■	P	I	S	A
■	■	■	F	O	X	Y	■	P	U	T	T	Y
O	C	E	L	L	I	■	M	A	D	■	■	■
P	A	L	E	■	B	L	I	N	D	E	R	S
U	S	S	R	■	L	E	T	■	L	E	E	K
S	H	E	S	■	E	A	I	■	E	N	V	Y

Yesterday's answer 1-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alicia Keys, 32; Mia Kirshner, 37; Ana Ortiz, 41; Jenifer Lewis, 55.

Happy Birthday: Good fortune will come to you in mysterious ways. Don't look for the obvious. Let your imagination lead you in unfamiliar and eye-opening directions. Love, romance and spending more time interacting with people will bring you the experience and knowledge you require to help a cause, as well as family and friends. Your numbers are 4, 9, 12, 21, 24, 39, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Consider what you offer and what you can get in return. It's a give-and-take world, and you must be willing to take what you deserve without feeling guilty. Gracious acceptance will make others feel important and enhance your relationships as well. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Get to know people outside of business or school. The relationships you build by exploring the human aspect of the lives of those you deal with at work will give you greater leverage in the future. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Sensitive issues must be handled with diplomacy. You will jeopardize your chance to advance if you are oblivious to what others are going through. Don't show anger when what's required is understanding and sympathy. Reach out with love. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Your sensitivity toward others will be noted and appreciated. Love is on the rise, and making a promise to someone you cherish will be well received. A change at home will be beneficial for everyone involved. A pleasure trip is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Watch your spending habits, your health and your emotional well-being. Make sure you can afford purchases before you commit financially. Charity begins at home, and keeping things within reason will be key to your future success. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll be drawn to personal matters that can generate a lot of passion regarding the things you want to do and the people you want to spend time with. Follow your heart. Be open about your needs and what you want to accomplish. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Listen carefully to what's being said. Complaints may not be voiced in simple terms. Focus on home, family and domestic improvements. Use your imagination and foresight to make things happen. Don't question; just do. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put your heart into whatever you do. Make changes that will allow you to fit in and contribute adequately. Don't allow emotional problems to escalate into something you cannot control. Take action, but do so courteously. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): First and foremost, you must look at your situation and your behavior honestly. Assess what you may have done wrong, as well as what you can do not only to improve your relationships with others but also to better take care of you. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Check out your options and make plans to start something new. You will come up with a plan that can be very lucrative by capitalizing on past experience and the trends you see unfolding. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Show your strengths by helping others. Your intuition will guide you to do the right thing for those you influence and those who influence you. Strive for perfection, but don't let frustration set in. Take breaks and you'll accomplish more. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Create enthusiasm and stir up feelings with your wit and charm. Taking action is what's required to turn your dream into a reality. Love is on the rise, and a special relationship will be enhanced if you are attentive. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are unique, sensitive and a dreamer. You think big and follow through.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			8	9	7			
		5				1		
		2				6		
	4	7	3	1	8	2	5	
	5						9	
	6			2			3	
	2			4			7	
	3						6	
		9	5	6	2	3		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	1	3	7	9	4	2	8	5
2	8	9	3	1	5	7	4	6
4	7	5	2	8	6	9	3	1
1	9	6	8	5	2	3	7	4
5	3	4	9	6	7	8	1	2
8	2	7	1	4	3	6	5	9
7	6	8	5	2	1	4	9	3
3	5	2	4	7	9	1	6	8
9	4	1	6	3	8	5	2	7

Difficulty level ★★ 1/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ELECTING POLITICIANS — Solution: 10 letters

P	L	A	N	O	I	S	I	V	E	L	E	T	A	F
H	U	S	T	I	N	G	S	S	S	E	N	A	T	E
P	T	S	Y	D	U	T	S	S	E	R	G	N	O	C
C	A	A	E	T	N	E	M	T	N	I	O	P	P	A
T	A	Y	L	H	C	H	E	C	K	E	T	L	O	R
N	P	M	B	K	C	O	U	N	T	C	E	R	L	E
E	O	R	B	B	S	E	T	A	D	I	D	N	A	C
M	L	M	I	I	O	E	E	M	A	F	I	N	A	P
A	I	F	R	C	T	L	M	P	E	F	R	M	L	J
I	T	R	S	O	E	I	O	A	S	O	P	E	D	O
L	I	A	E	C	F	W	O	T	N	A	A	F	E	B
R	C	D	T	P	E	T	S	U	I	S	S	U	E	S
A	S	I	O	R	A	I	A	G	S	B	A	N	D	S
P	O	O	V	R	L	P	N	Ⓛ	Ⓐ	Ⓦ	Ⓢ	D	E	N
N	Y	L	B	M	E	S	S	A	P	E	X	S	C	E

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Ambitious, Apex, Appointment, Assembly, Bands, Campaigns, Candidates, Care, Check, Congress, Count, Deed, Election, Fame, Fate, Funds, Hustings, Issues, Jobs, Laws, Lists, Lobby, Names, Office, Paper, Parliament, Parties, Pay, Plan, Platform, Pleas, Politics, Power, Price, Pride, Radio, Roll, Senate, Speeches, Study, Talk, Television, Votes

Yesterday's Answer: Florence

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Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

TEOFILO V. MOLINYAWE, Petitioner,	**FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0470**
versus	**SUMMONS**
SONIA REGIS-MOLINYAWE, Respondent.	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Ilimwal Aweewee, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for your to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 13th day of October, 2011.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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Classified Ads

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Pierce, Bass carry Celtics over Magic, 87-56

BOSTON (AP)—Paul Pierce and former Magic forward Brandon Bass each scored 19 points to carry the injury-riddled Boston Celtics to an 87-56 win over Orlando on Monday.

Boston was minus starters Ray Allen, Rajon Rondo and three bench players, drastically reducing its roster.

Dwight Howard led the Magic with 18 points and 14 rebounds. He needs eight points to surpass Nick Anderson as the Magic's all-time leading scorer.

Kevin Garnett added 14 points and 10 rebounds for Boston.

AP

Boston Celtics small forward Paul Pierce (34) tries to shoot as Orlando Magic forward Hedo Turkoglu (15) reaches to block during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Boston, Monday, Jan. 23, 2012.

Mavericks 93, Suns 87

In Dallas, Shawn Marion scored a season-high 29 points as short-handed Dallas stretched its home winning streak to seven games with a victory over Phoenix.

Marion, who entered with five 3-pointers all season, went 4 of 6 from behind the arc and 11 for 20 from the field.

Top scorer Dirk Nowitzki and key reserve Vince Carter remain out for the defending NBA champion Mavericks (11-7), who returned home from a 2-2 road trip.

Grant Hill scored a season-high 19 points for Phoenix and Marcin Gortat had 19 points and 17 rebounds, his eighth consecutive double-double. Shannon Brown added 14 points for the Suns, who have lost six of eight.

Ian Mahinmi had 17 points and nine rebounds for the Mavericks.

Bulls 110, Nets 95

In Chicago, Derrick Rose and Richard Hamilton each scored 22 points to lead banged-up Chicago to an easy victory over New Jersey.

Hamilton set season highs in points and assists (10). Rose added eight assists and hung with Deron Williams after missing four games with a sprained left big toe.

Joakim Noah chipped in with 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Bulls, who cruised to their fourth straight win.

Carlos Boozer had 14 points and nine rebounds, and Ronnie Brewer (11 points) filled in nicely with Luol Deng sidelined by a sprained left wrist.

Williams had 16 points and 10 assists for New Jersey. Jordan Farmar scored 22, but the Nets were overwhelmed playing their third game in three nights.

76ers 103, Wizards 83

In Philadelphia, Elton Brand had 17 points and nine rebounds, and Jrue Holiday also scored 17 to lead Philadelphia over Washington.

Jodie Meeks added 15 points and Andre Iguodala had 11 assists. The Sixers led by 30 in the first half and easily cruised to their third win of the season against the hapless Wizards.

Jordan Crawford led the Wizards (2-15) with 17 points. They lost their third straight game and remained the NBA's only winless road team at 0-7.

Thunder 99, Pistons 79

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook and reserve James Harden each scored 24 points, and Kevin Durant added 20 as Oklahoma City beat Detroit.

The Thunder built a 30-point lead midway through the second quarter and Detroit got no closer than 17 after the opening period.

Nick Collison sprained his left ankle and didn't play after halftime.

Rookie guard Brandon Knight led Detroit with 13 points. Rodney Stuckey and Greg Monroe added 12 apiece.

Spurs 104, Hornets 102

In New Orleans, Tim Duncan scored a season-high 28 points, including a running hook in the lane with 1.4 seconds left, as San Antonio sent New Orleans to its eighth straight loss.

Tony Parker added 20 points and a career-high 17 assists for the Spurs, who snapped a two-game skid. Richard Jefferson had 14 points and Tiago Splitter 12.

Jarrett Jack led the Hornets with 26 points and nine assists. Trevor Ariza tied a season high with 18 points and Landry also scored 18.

Rockets 107, Timberwolves 92

In Minneapolis, Kevin Martin scored 31 points as Houston won its seventh straight game, beating Minnesota in coach Kevin McHale's first game back at Target Center since he was fired by the Timberwolves in 2009.

Kyle Lowry had 16 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds and Samuel Dalembert grabbed 15 rebounds for the Rockets, who put the game away with a 19-1 run bridging the third and fourth quarters.

Kevin Love had 39 points and 12 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who committed 10 turnovers in the fourth quarter in coach Rick Adelman's first game against the team he coached the past four seasons.

Hawks 97, Bucks 92

In Milwaukee, Joe Johnson scored 14 of his season-high 28 points in the fourth quarter, rallying Atlanta past Milwaukee.

Josh Smith had 19 points and 13 rebounds, and Jeff Teague added 15 points for the Hawks in the opener of a five-game road trip.

Brandon Jennings had 21 points and 11 assists to lead Milwaukee, and Mike Dunleavy added 17 points. But the Bucks had no answer for Johnson in the fourth.

Trail Blazers 101, Kings 89

In Portland, Oregon, Jamal Crawford scored a season-high 26 points as Portland picked up a win over Sacramento in its return from a six-game road trip.

Gerald Wallace had 20 points and eight rebounds and LaMarcus Aldridge added 13 points and 16 rebounds for the Blazers, who were coming off a 2-4 trip. Portland improved to 7-1 at the Rose Garden, playing there for the first time since Jan. 11.

DeMarcus Cousins had 18 points and 13 rebounds, his 12th double-double of the season, for the Kings. Jimmer Fredette scored 13 points and Francisco Garcia added 12.

Grizzles 91, Warriors 90

In Oakland, California, Rudy Gay scored 23 points, three in the final 23 seconds, as Memphis rallied from 20 points down in the second half to beat Golden State.

Mike Conley had 20 points and nine assists for the Grizzlies, who extended their winning streak with one of the biggest comebacks in franchise history.

Marc Gasol added 15 points and 11 rebounds while Tony Allen had 14 points and eight rebounds for the Grizzlies.

Monta Ellis had 20 points and five assists for Golden State, which was outscored 11-5 over the final 2:15.

Kraft 'shuddered' when Brady belted on TD plunge

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Patriots owner Robert Kraft "shuddered" when he saw Tom Brady take a crunching hit on a 1-yard touchdown plunge. He even wondered if Brady's back was broken.

Such a graceful dive. Such a powerful blow.

"It was scary," Kraft said Monday, his momentary fears quickly put to rest, "but he popped right up."

Brady shook off the body-bending force of Ray Lewis' helmet to his lower back, spiked the ball and punched the air in celebration. He had just scored the go-ahead touchdown early in the fourth quarter of New England's 23-20 win over the Baltimore Ravens in the AFC championship game Sunday.

He was OK and so are the Super Bowl-bound Patriots, who will face the New York Giants on Feb. 5.

But at the instant of impact, there was concern in the owner's box where Kraft was sitting with friends, family members and former Patriots.

"We all shuddered up in the box," he said. "We thought that his back might have been broken."

Another unexpected occurrence also caught Kraft's attention—the vertical leap of the lumbering Brady. He soared high over his offensive line, arcing his back and reaching the ball over the goal line while clutching it with both hands.

"I actually didn't know he had that kind of rise," Kraft said with a smile.

But as Brady was landing, the picture wasn't as pretty.

He had his head toward the ground and his legs up in the air as if he was about to complete a somersault. Then Lewis, who had lined up a few yards behind the line, barreled in for the blow and sent Brady's legs back from where they had come. Both players got up without jawing as their teammates prepared for the extra point.

"That's the way the game should be played, physical," Patriots wide receiver Matthew Slater said. "This game is not a noncontact sport. So there's going to be hits. We knew that going into the game with those guys. They play physical football and we knew we had to match that going in.

"I didn't see it as a dirty hit at all."

Two plays earlier, on second-and-goal at the Ravens 1-yard line, Brady ran off left guard for what officials initially ruled a touchdown. But it was reversed when replays showed his knee hit the ground before the ball crossed the goal line. On the next play, the Ravens stopped BenJarvus Green-Ellis for no gain.

Trailing 20-16, the Patriots decided to go for a touchdown on fourth down. They got it on Brady's leap with 11:29 left in the game that the hard-hitting Lewis stopped—just a split-second late.

"I saw him get crunched," wide receiver Julian Edelman said. "I'm sure if it was reversed, TB would do the same. (They're) competitors. Whatever it takes to win that little play, that's what guys are going to do, especially in an AFC championship game."

Brady didn't complain.

"It's just the way the game was played," safety James Ihedigbo said. "It's two teams battling for the AFC championship. There's going to be those type of hits and it's all a part of the game. Tom understood that. Everyone on the field knew that. Once you stepped in between those white lines, that's the type of game that was being played."

Brady and Lewis had an earlier collision in the first two minutes of the third quarter, and that time, the intense leader of the three-time Super Bowl champs was angry.

On a second-and-one at the Baltimore 46, Brady carried around left tackle for a 4-yard gain. Lewis, who already had started toward him, landed lightly on his back.

Brady came up yelling. Lewis gave it back. But the confrontation was over in seconds.

"It was definitely a physical game," Edelman said. "That's what you expect when you play the Baltimore Ravens."

Green-Ellis felt that early in the second quarter when linebacker Dannell Ellerbe pulled his helmet off as he was running off right guard. As bodies landed around him, Green-Ellis finished with a 1-yard gain and no damage to his unprotected head.

"It's football," he said. "Guys are grabbing and scratching and clawing for anything they can get. That was the helmet. That was the part he got. I was able to get away from him. I wasn't really thinking about anything but moving forward."

It was clear to Ihedigbo from the start that there would be plenty of blows exchanged.

With so much at stake, the officials were letting two physical teams pound each other.

"Right off the bat, we knew it's one of those games where they were going to let us play and it was physical on both ends," Ihedigbo said. "It was really a heavyweight boxing match."

Clijsters beats Wozniacki to move into semifinals

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Kim Clijsters is moving on, and Caroline Wozniacki is moving out of the top spot.

Clijsters continued her Australian Open title defense with a 6-3, 7-6 (4) quarterfinal win that will cost Wozniacki the No. 1 ranking.

The four-time major winner next plays third-seeded Victoria Azarenka, who had a 6-7 (0), 6-0, 6-2 win over No. 8 Agnieszka Radwanska earlier Tuesday to move into the semis of a Grand Slam for the second time.

Azarenka is one of three players who can pass Wozniacki, who needed to reach the semifinals to retain the top ranking.

The 21-year-old Danish player has finished the last two seasons at No. 1 but has never won a major, prompting criticism of how the rankings system works.

Clijsters has slipped to No. 14 since beating Li Na in the last Australian final, losing in the second round at the French Open and then missing the next two majors due to injuries.

She also had a roller-coaster ride into the Australian Open semis for the seventh time after spraining her ankle and having to save four match points in a fourth-round win over Li.

Clijsters and Wozniacki both started nervously, with three service breaks to start the match. But the 28-year-old Belgian dictated play from her first hold in the fourth game until she was serving for the match at 5-3 in the second.

She had the rally on her racket at 30-30 but let her guard down and allowed Wozniacki back into the match. Wozniacki won the next two points to break Clijsters, and then held to get it back on level terms.

Clijsters had never lost any of her eight previous tiebreakers at Melbourne Park, and she hit a backhand down the line to take a 5-4 lead. She set up double match point with a cross-court forehand winner and sealed it with a volley.

"It definitely didn't feel like being up a set and 5-2," Clijsters said. "I had to work really hard for it. Caroline is a great fighter.

AP

Kim Clijsters of Belgium hits a backhand return to Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark during their quarterfinal at the Australian Open tennis championship, in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2012.

"I was happy to get through, and not in a three-setter because it's so hot," she said.

The crowd at Rod Laver Arena was solidly behind Clijsters from the start, shouting "C'mon Kimmie" in between nearly every point and cheering when Wozniacki missed a shot.

One group of Belgian fans had painted their faces in the red, yellow and black colors of the flag. They stood and chanted for Clijsters when she broke Wozniacki to win the first set.

Four-time Australian Open champion Roger Federer had the next scheduled match on Rod Laver against U.S. Open champion Juan Martin del Potro. No. 2-ranked Rafael Nadal played Tomas Berdych in a night match.

Azarenka opened the action on Rod Laver in a match that contained 15 breaks of serve, including eight in the first set.

After being comprehensively outplayed in the opening tiebreaker, Azarenka won seven straight games to move closer to the victory as the temperature increased to 93.

The 22-year-old Belarusian extended her winning streak this season to 10 matches, including a title at Sydney where she beat Radwanska in the semifinals.

"I'm really glad I could stay tough and finish the match," said Azarenka, who served six double-faults and had 38 unforced errors. "I'm just really happy to be in the semifinals to give it all out there."

Five-time champion Serena Williams is already out of the tournament. Her 17-match winning streak at the Australian Open ended in a 6-2, 6-3 loss to No. 56-ranked Ekaterina Makarova.

The margin equaled the biggest Grand Slam defeat of Williams' 17-year career.

Makarova will face three-time major winner Maria Sharapova in an all-Russian quarterfinal.

Sharapova rallied past Sabine Lisicki 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 before defending men's champion Novak Djokovic fended off a resurgent Lleyton Hewitt in a dramatic last match of the day, winning 6-1, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3.

With Hewitt's loss, Australia's chances of celebrating a home singles winner were over. American hopes had already evaporated with the defeat of Williams—her first in Melbourne since 2008 and earliest since 2006.

"I can't even describe how I served, to be honest," said Williams, who finished with seven double-faults, including four in one game in the second set. "My lefty serve is actually better than that. Maybe I should have started serving lefty."

Williams tried not to blame her left ankle injury from a tuneup tournament in Brisbane two weeks ago. But she didn't move well and seemed to have particular difficulty running to her left. She said if it hadn't been a Grand Slam, she wouldn't have played at all.

"Usually I play myself into the tournament," Williams said. "But I don't have a huge problem with an injury. So this is a completely different situation. Usually it's easier for me to play myself in because I'm usually physically OK."

Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova had a 6-2, 7-6 (2) win over former top-ranked Ana Ivanovic on Monday and will next play Sara Errani of Italy, who beat 2010 semifinalist Zheng Jie 6-2, 6-1.

Djokovic had won 23 straight sets at Melbourne Park before he suddenly wobbled against Hewitt, a two-time Grand Slam champion who has slipped to No. 181 in the rankings after a series of injuries.

Hewitt, a wild-card entry in his 16th straight Australian Open, rallied from 3-0 down in the third set in front of a raucous home crowd to force a fourth set, but Djokovic gathered his composure.

Next up for Djokovic is fifth-seeded David Ferrer of Spain, who had a surprisingly easy 6-4, 6-4, 6-1 win over Richard Gasquet.

Two-time finalist Andy Murray advanced when Mikhail Kukushkin of Kazakhstan retired after 49 minutes with a left hip injury while trailing 6-1, 6-1, 1-0. After knocking out the first player from Kazakhstan to reach the fourth round of a Grand Slam, Murray's next opponent will be another history-maker.

Kei Nishikori beat sixth-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 2-6, 6-2, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 to become the first Japanese man to reach the quarterfinals of the Australian Open since the Open era began in 1968.

Paterno's son: JoePa upbeat, fought cancer to end

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP)—Joe Paterno was upbeat and confident in his final days and didn't die broken-hearted over his firing in November as Penn State's longtime football coach, his son said Monday.

Scott Paterno said his Dad was "serenely calm," before his death from lung cancer on Sunday, antsy to leave the hospital so he could start planning a vacation with his wife, Sue.

Paterno was abruptly dismissed after 46 years amid a child sex abuse scandal involving a former assistant coach.

During a telephone interview with The Associated Press, Scott Paterno said his father's health had deteriorated by Friday afternoon, prompting the family to announce Saturday that the 85-year-old Paterno was in serious condition. He died the following morning.

"He wanted his family in his room. He wanted to be around people. He wanted to talk," the son said. "He wanted to have people, even when he had trouble speaking, he wanted people around him talking. How are your kids? It was so natural. It was like we were having dinner around the kitchen table. It just happened to be his hospital bed."

And, he said: "Even at the end when it was clear that he passed a line of no return, it was never a moment of bitterness. It was never a moment of fear. He was serenely calm, even right up to the end."

The Paternos would have been married six decades this year. Along with their five children, Sue Paterno was at her husband's bedside at Mount Nittany Medical Center when he died.

"If there's any message I think my father would pass on to everybody at this point, it's `let's build this thing up.' He was so positive and so confident at the end of his life that the things that were important about this place would endure.

"And that's why he was at peace," Scott Paterno said, before joking, "That, and (that) my mother was willing to put up with him all these years."

The Paternos' plans for a long promised six-week honeymoon trip were snatched away by the disease that took his life.

The actual honeymoon? A three-day trip to Virginia Beach—with a stop to see a recruit on the way down.

Paterno re-entered the hospital on Jan. 13, with his family fully expecting him to return home despite his increased frailty.

They thought it was simply a matter of getting him stabilized.

As recently as last Wednesday, Paterno was counting on his fingers the number of days he had been in the hospital, hoping to get out.

"One, two, three, four, five. I've been here five days. I'm coming home," his son quoted his Dad as saying.

Though the old coach was on a respirator that made it difficult to talk, it didn't stop him from teasing Scott on Thursday about his weight. Again. Dad playfully pointed to his son's belly.

"He did that every time," Scott Paterno said.

There were no balloons or flowers in Paterno's room. His son suspects his mother sent them to other patients in the hospital.

But there was a Penn State sweat shirt in there.

"His life is Penn State through and through," Scott Paterno said, speaking of his father in the present tense. "He understood that and it never once occurred to him to be bitter toward Penn State."

Rockies get Scutaro from Red Sox for Mortensen

DENVER (AP)—The Colorado Rockies acquired infielder Marco Scutaro from the Red Sox for right-hander Clayton Mortensen on Saturday in a surprising trade that could pave the way for top Boston prospect Jose Iglesias to take over at shortstop sooner than expected.

The 36-year-old Scutaro hit a career-high .299 for the Red Sox last season, when he had seven homers, 26 doubles, 54 RBIs and a .358 on-base percentage. Boston picked up his $6 million option in October, a month after the team missed the playoffs following a record collapse down the stretch.

Scutaro was expected to remain Boston's starting shortstop this season but he will play second base and bat second in Colorado, where the Rockies also have added Michael Cuddyer and Ramon Martinez in an offseason makeover following last year's disappointing slide.

Mortensen, 26, went 2-4 with a 3.86 ERA in 16 games between the Rockies' rotation and their bullpen last season. He provides depth for a Boston rotation that will be without injured starters John Lackey and Daisuke Matsuzaka next season.

The Rockies targeted Scutaro for months and taking on his $6 million contract gives the Red Sox financial flexibility to make a run at free-agent pitcher Roy Oswalt.

Shortstop has been a trouble spot in Boston since Nomar Garciaparra was traded during the World Series championship season of 2004. Orlando Cabrera filled the position the rest of that year, but he was followed by Edgar Renteria, Alex Gonzalez, Julio Lugo and Gonzalez again; Jed Lowrie, Nick Green and Alex Cora were also in the mix.

Scutaro provided two years of stability after signing with Boston as a free agent following the 2009 season. Now he's gone, too.

The 22-year-old Iglesias appeared in 10 games for the Red Sox last year, getting two hits in six at-bats. A slick fielder who has struggled at the plate as a pro, he batted .235 with a homer and 31 RBIs in 101 games for Triple-A Pawtucket last year. In two minor league seasons since he defected from Cuba, Iglesias has a paltry .308 on-base percentage and .316 slugging percentage.

Still, his defense is considered outstanding and the Red Sox have been grooming him as their shortstop of the future.

Other options for Boston include versatile veterans Mike Aviles and Nick Punto. Both have plenty of big league experience at shortstop, but they were expected to fill utility roles off the bench this season.

San Vicente Church bike race Saturday

The Mt. Tapochao Bike Club will be holding its first bike race for the season this Saturday.

Dubbed as the Inaugural San Vicente Church Bike Race, the event is open to both MTB and road bike riders and will start at 7:30am. Registration begins at 6:30am at San Vicente Church with an entry fee of only $10. All proceeds from the race will be donated to San Vicente Church.

For the MTB race, bikers can compete in the men's and women's open division and over 40 and under 40 age groups. The road race will have two categories—men and women.

There will be two courses for the MTB race. The short course will start and end at San Vicente Church with riders passing through Dandan road en route to the back side of the airport and then straight to airport runway road, Naftan road, Flame Tree and airport roads, Chalan Tun Herman Pan, and Isa Drive

For the championship course, from the backside of the airport, bikers will go to the Hawaiian Rock Quarry, Naftan trail, Obyan Beach road, Naftan road (right turn), airport runway road, Naftan road, Flame Tree and airport roads, Chalan Tun Herman Pan, and Isa Drive before returning to San Vicente.

The road bike course will bring bikers to airport road, Coral Ocean Point and Pacific Islands Club. From PIC, they will turn right to Mobil back up to the airport road, Isa Drive, and then to San Vicente Church. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

Bikers in last month's Hell of Marianas pass through the road in front of San Vicente Church, which will be the start/finish line for Saturday's race that Mt. Tapochao Bike Club is organizing. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MHS

From Page 28

MHS and Kagman High School (2-0) are the only remaining undefeated squads in the five-team field.

In addition, MHS' junior Dolphins also came out on top in its season debut over SSHS (1-1), 44-31, in the junior varsity that preceded the main bout.

In the varsity match, both defenses showed up to play, but a pair of 3-pointers by MHS' John Darag helped give the Dolphins an early 8-5 edge in the opening 10 minutes.

MHS then pressed and built a 26-18 lead at halftime with a late surge as the second quarter winded down.

Darag remained at the helm and added eight more points in the period.

The Manta Rays regrouped after the break and pulled within one possession, 39-42, heading into the fourth quarter.

Darag buried a pair of three-balls early in the third period and a pair of late free throws to keep the Dolphins in control. However, SSHS' Jimmy Tudela and Jaymark DeGuzman teamed up for 11 markers during the Manta Rays' rally.

It remained back and forth all the way to the end with MHS maintaining its modest advantage.

Seeing the writing on the wall, a skirmish broke out between a frustrated Nevin Salem of SSHS and Darag in the final five seconds of regulation, which resulted in Darag being called to the stripe for four free throws to ice the win.

The players were actually tangled up a few minutes prior to the tussle as they both dove for a loose ball.

On that play, Darag seemed to purposely lie on top of Salem, preventing the latter from getting up. Darag was called for a foul.

When they became tangled up the second time, Salem took a swipe at Darag's face with an open hand and pushed him, which resulted in the technical foul.

Darag led all scorers with 26 points, five of which came from behind the arc, while SSHS' Tudela scrambled for 14 on the short end. Salem had two points before fouling out.

In the junior varsity pairing, MHS built an early 9-7 lead in the opening period off a pair of buckets by team captain Jacob Palacios and a three-ball by teammate Justin Cayading.

Then MHS pulled ahead, 22-15, at the half. The Dolphins held SSHS to single digits in both opening frames, and nailed two more 3-pointers on the other end during its second quarter push.

SSHS made some nice defensive adjustments after the break, but its offense continued to struggle.

A late long ball by MHS' John Capuyon kept the margin intact as the count shifted to 29-22 heading into the final canto.

MHS pulled away in the final period as Shane Deleon Guerrero came off the bench and scored seven straight points to secure the win.

Palacios carried the torch for MHS with 10 points, while SSHS' Emerson Feria led the field with 11.

The season continues today at 4pm at the MHS Gym as the Saipan International School Geckos debut against the Grace Christian Academy Eagles (1-0) in a junior varsity pairing followed by the varsity matchup between SSHS and the Mount Carmel School Knights (0-3).

VARSITY

MHS 56 – Darag 26, Caro 10, Dela Rosa 6, Lacsina 6, Francisco 4, Gu 2, Suarez 2.

SSHS 52 – Tudela 14, DeGuzman 9, Aranda 8, Mizer 8, Mariano 6, Hofschneider 4, Salem 2, Alegre 1.

Scoring by quarters: 8-5, 26-18, 42-39, 56-52.

JUNIOR VARSITY

MHS 44 – Palacios 10, Lixing 8, DL Guerrero 7, Manalili 5, W Camacho 4, Cayading 4, Capuyon 3, Kwon 2, Yap 2.

SSHS – Feria 11, Javier 7, D Camacho 4, Acopiado 3, Ferrer 3, Kintaro 1.

Scoring by quarters: 9-7, 22-15, 29-22, 44-31.

HANWHA

From Page 28

really appreciate the hospitality and hope that the kids had a lot of fun," said Eagles manager Cho Dae Hyun.

Hyun and Eagles players Jang Sun Ho, Park Noh Min, Ko Dong Jin, and Kin Su arrived on island last Jan. 5 and have been using the KES field for their spring rehabilitation-training program.

Dong Jin and Kin Su are returning to Korea later this week, but the rest of the group will remain on island until Feb. 28.

The players are all recovering from various injuries sustained last season and according to Hyun, Saipan is a great place for them to recuperate.

Some of them also recently underwent surgeries and are not fit to practice fully with the rest of the team.

In addition to holding the clinic, the Eagles expressed their gratitude further by donating some baseball equipment to KES.

The Eagles are based in Daejeon, South Korea and is a member of the Korean Baseball Organization, which competes in the Korean Professional Baseball League.

The team was founded in 1985 as the Binggrae Eagles, Hanwha's former corporate name. It changed to the Hanwha Eagles in 1993 after Binggrae broke apart from the conglomerate. They were the seventh installment of the eight-team field.

The Eagles have one Korean Series title from 1999 and have made 11 postseason appearances with a handful of runner-up showings.

Its heyday was back in the 1990s and early 2000s, but the team has since declined overall in recent years.

Last season they finished at the bottom of the field and fell short of the playoffs.

Notably, former Major League Baseball pitcher Chan Ho Park is a member of the bullpen.

Park was the first-ever South Korean-born player in MLB history.

The Los Angeles Dodgers drafted him out of college as an amateur free agent during his sophomore season in 1994.

His term with the Dodgers lasted five and a half years and he later had stints with the Texas Rangers, San Diego Padres, New York Mets, Philadelphia Phillies, New York Yankees, and Pittsburg Pirates before his major league career came to an end in 2010.

Park signed with the Orix Buffaloes for the 2011 Nippon Professional Baseball League in Japan.

The journeyman is known as a power pitcher that touches in the mid-90s (MPH) on the speed gun.

The 2012 KPBL season starts on April, 7.

THEA

From Page 28

lect Junior ITF points. According to Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association president Jeff Race, Arisa Sakai was the first female junior netter from the Commonwealth to get Junior ITF points, achieving the feat in the '90s. Former junior player Vivian Lee is also on the list after competing in a tournament in Malaysia six or seven years ago.

The 16-year-old Minor boosted her chances for an ITF junior ranking points this year when she won her first match in the Sunsmart event. The Saipan Southern High School student swept fellow unranked player Brogan Maoate of New Zealand in the opening round, 6-4, 7-5, to advance to the Round of 32.

However, Cordoba, who drew a bye in the first round, stopped Minor's momentum to set up a third round duel against No. 10 seed Paire Mary Hourigan of New Zealand. Minor, on the other hand, joined fellow Oceania ITF Touring Team players Yaelle Honakoko and Assya Trimari of New Caledonia in the showers.

The visiting group now has only three players left in the tournament. Fiji's Annie Shannon and Tarani Kamoe marched into the Round of 16 after winning over New Zealand's Jessica Shaw, 6-1, 6-3, and Trimari, 6-1, 6-2, respectively. Tournament second seed Marcia Terepisah of Papua New Guinea is also in the next round after a 6-0, 6-3 triumph over New Zealand's Trixie Croad.

Meanwhile, Minor still has two chances to get Junior ITF points, as she will compete in two more tournaments in New Zealand. She is entered in the New Zealand U18 ITF Summer Champs in Auckland, which will start this Sunday and the Tennis Central U18 Junior ITF Tournament in Wellington (Feb. 7 to 11).

TSUNAMI

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en route to posting a new CNMI age group mark in the boys 15 to 16 division. Next to finish the lung-busting race was SSC's Kento Akimura, who timed in at 10:29.01. Kimura's teammate, Miku Tammy, came in at third at the 11:49.95 mark and also set a new CNMI age group record in the girls 9 to 10.

Three different swimmers plunged into the pool next for the 400m freestyle event with 13-year-old Victoria Chentsova of SSC finishing the race at the 5:11.97, ahead of Tsunami Saipan's Hiroto Yanai (5:32.95) and Ryosei Toda (5:38.99).

The third event of the day was the 200m butterfly, which drew two entries—Tsunami Saipan's Angel Marie Tan and Takumi Sugie. Tan submitted 3:01.62, more than five seconds faster than Takumi's 3:06.84.

Shigeki Tenorio and Kaito Yanai were the seventh and eighth Tsunami Saipan swimmer to race in the weekend event, competing in the 200m breaststroke. Tenorio went on to record the fastest time in the heat with his 2:39.43, while Kaito Yanai logged 2:51.79. SSC's Naoki Kasai was also in the small group and timed in a 3:56.29.

Meet organizers then went back to the freestyle event and this time the 200m race had two heats with three swimmers competing in each group. Tsunami Saipan's Karen Irinaka topped the first group with her 3:43.45, followed by teammates Kenshiro Yanai (3:44.41) and Juhn Tenorio (3:55.47). In Heat 2, Marvin Lee clocked in at 2:42.85, ahead of Daime Rivera (3:06.12) and Quina Flores (3:07.61).

Daime's younger sister, Kyona, also joined the meet, racing in the 200m individual medley and timing in at 3:47.54. SSC's Lennosuke Suzuki completed the race first with his time of 3:29.70, followed by teammate Taiga Sato (3:40.97).

A few minutes after his first race, Suzuki returned to the starting block for the 100m butterfly and was joined by Tsunami Saipan's Ryuto Yanai and Tammy. Ryuto Yanai ruled the heat with his 1:22.17, while Tammy and Suzuki posted 1:36.55 and 1:52.79, respectively.

The 100m backstroke was the last official event of the day and it had two heats. Tsunami Saipan's Heongjoo Yoo was on Heat 1 and also ruled his group after timing in at 1:47.82. Sato came in next at the 1:48.91, followed by Minseok Yoo (1:55.03). Heat 2 was for faster swimmers with Tsunami Saipan's Lukas Kang making a new age group record in the boys 9 to 10 (1:21.96) and beating Chentsova (1:22.47) and teammate Angel De Jesus (1:30.95).

Meanwhile, the small meet concluded with exhibition races in the 50m freestyle. Shigeki Tenorio recorded the fastest time (unofficial) among the 23 Tsunami Saipan swimmers who did the short race with his 28.46 seconds. Sugie came in next at the 30-second mark, followed by Kaito Yanai (31.09 seconds), Lee (32.03 seconds), Hiroto Yanai (32.76 seconds), Ryuto Yanai (33.03 seconds), Tan (33.12 seconds), Toda (34.63 seconds), Kang (35:05 seconds), Daime Rivera (35:37 seconds), Heongjoo Yoo (35.65 seconds), Tammy (36.02 seconds), De Jesus (36.47 seconds), Flores (36.80 seconds), Hwan (38.57 seconds), Minseok Yoo (39.63 seconds), Kyona Rivera (40.34 seconds), Irinaka (45.23 seconds), Kenshiro Yanai (48.25 seconds), and Juhn Tenorio (49.47 seconds).

The Northern Marianas Swimming Federation sanctioned the eight official events in the first Tsunami Saipan-hosted meet and two more small competitions will take place in the next three months to help CNMI swimmers update their times and eventually break records. Tsunami Saipan is also using the meets to help its swimmers achieve qualifying times for future off-island events. The last two events will be held on Feb. 18 and April 28.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	12	5	.706	–
Boston	7	9	.438	4 1/2
New York	6	10	.375	5 1/2
New Jersey	5	13	.278	7 1/2
Toronto	4	13	.235	8

Southeast Division

Atlanta	13	5	.722	–
Orlando	11	5	.688	1
Miami	11	5	.688	1
Charlotte	3	14	.176	9 1/2
Washington	2	15	.118	10 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	16	3	.842	–
Indiana	11	4	.733	3
Cleveland	6	9	.400	8
Milwaukee	6	10	.375	8 1/2
Detroit	4	14	.222	11 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	10	6	.625	–
San Antonio	11	7	.611	–
Dallas	11	7	.611	–
Houston	10	7	.588	1/2
New Orleans	3	14	.176	7 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	14	3	.824	–
Denver	12	5	.706	2
Utah	10	5	.667	3
Portland	10	7	.588	4
Minnesota	7	10	.412	7

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	9	5	.643	–
L.A. Lakers	10	8	.556	1
Phoenix	6	10	.375	4
Sacramento	6	12	.333	5
Golden State	5	11	.313	5

Yesterday's Games
Philadelphia 103, Washington 83
Boston 87, Orlando 56
Chicago 110, New Jersey 95
Oklahoma City 99, Detroit 79
San Antonio 104, New Orleans 102
Houston 107, Minnesota 92
Atlanta 97, Milwaukee 92
Dallas 93, Phoenix 87
Portland 101, Sacramento 89
Memphis 91, Golden State 90

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2012 Pre-Tagaman Swim Course Race

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Swimmers head to the starting line of the 2012 Pre-Tagaman Swim Course Race.

Dawn Hammermeister and Tamio Nishikido run to the shore.

Butch Sublemente moves out of the water.

Race organizer Brad Ruszala, right, gives Manny Sitchon a high-five.

Florence Antonio smiles after finishing the 1-kilometer race.

Tamio Nishikido makes his way to the shore.

Participants of the 2012 Pre-Tagaman Swim Course Race pose for a photo after completing last Saturday's event in the waters south of Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

From left, Manny Sitchon, Joshua Berger, Butch Sublemente, and Roxie Lamar share a light moment before plunging into the water.

Roxie Lamar puts on her fins, while other swimmers head to the starting line.

Race volunteers from DFS Galleria pose with Brad Ruszala while waiting for the completion of the event.

Pierce, Bass carry Celtics over Magic, 87-56

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Clijsters beats Wozniacki to move into semifinals

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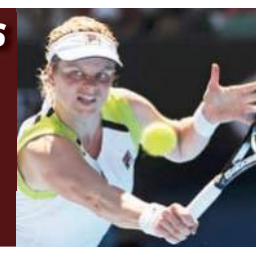

MHS holds off SSHS in boys varsity

Thea falls to Mexican opponent

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Thea Minor, seen here getting ready for a serve, bowed to her Mexican foe in a Junior ITF event in New Zealand yesterday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ITF Juniors

Thea Minor missed a slot to the third round of the Sunsmart 18 & Under Summer Championships 2012 after losing to her ranked foe in New Zealand yesterday.

Minor bowed to the more experienced Carmen Araceli Cordoba in straight sets, 4-6, 0-6, in the Round of 32 of the girls singles competition at the Ashburton Trust Tennis Centre in Ashburton. The 17-year-old Mexican is seeded sixth in the tournament and competed in 16 Junior ITF events last year compare to Minor's three. Cordoba is also ranked No. 498 in the world and holds a 20-39 record in singles.

With her win, the Mexican netter foiled Minor's bid to earn Junior ITF ranking points. Had Minor pulled off an upset over Cordoba, the CNMI bet could have gained 10 ranking points from the Grade 4 tournament.

Minor is aiming to become only the third female junior player from the CNMI to col-

See THEA on Page 26

Marianas High School's John Darag goes to work down low in Monday's MISO boys basketball varsity match against Saipan Southern High School at the MHS Gymnasium.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

MISO

The Marianas High School Dolphins outlasted the Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays, 56-52, in Monday's Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization boys basketball varsity matchup held at a jam packed MHS Gymnasium.

It was a very even matchup, but the Dolphins maintained a slim lead for the entire match and held it together at crunch time to stretch its unbeaten streak to three, while SSHS absorned its first loss after a pair of victories at the start of the season.

See MHS on Page 26

Hanwha Eagles hold youth clinic at KES

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Members of the Hanwha Eagles pose with fifth and sixth grade students from Koblerville Elementary School after conducting a youth baseball clinic yesterday at the KES baseball field.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Five members of the Hanwha Eagles Professional Baseball Club visited Koblerville Elementary School yesterday morning and put on a youth baseball clinic to a group of about 40 fifth and sixth graders on the campus' baseball field.

The clinic started with the students learning proper stretching techniques and then the Eagles offered some tips on how to throw the ball.

Then the kids got to test their skills with some simple pitch and catch drills before taking some swings with the bats.

After some "soft toss" batting practice the kids executed some cool down running exercises to end the clinic.

The activity was well received as it served as a nice break away from exams that are currently taking place in class.

"We wanted to give something back to the school as a gesture of appreciation for letting us use their field for our spring training program. We

See HANWHA on Page 26

Tsunami Saipan-hosted meet draws over 20 swimmers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Saipan

Over 20 swimmers competed in Tsunami Saipan-organized All Island Invitational 1 last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

The one-hour event, which was the first of the three small meets Tsunami Saipan is hosting this year, featured eight official events and lured swimmers from the host group and the Saipan Swim Club.

The weekend competition started with the longest race of the day—the 800m freestyle event—with three swimmers completing the 16-lap swim. Kensuke Kimura was the first to touch the wall at the 9:12.98

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tsunami Saipan and Saipan Swim Club swimmers plunge into the pool during the 100m butterfly race in the All Island Invitational 1 last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.